

The



CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

for RETAILER - WHOLESALE - MANUFACTURER

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CXLII

SEPTEMBER 9, 1944

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**for the prevention
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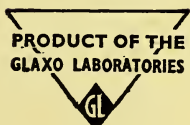
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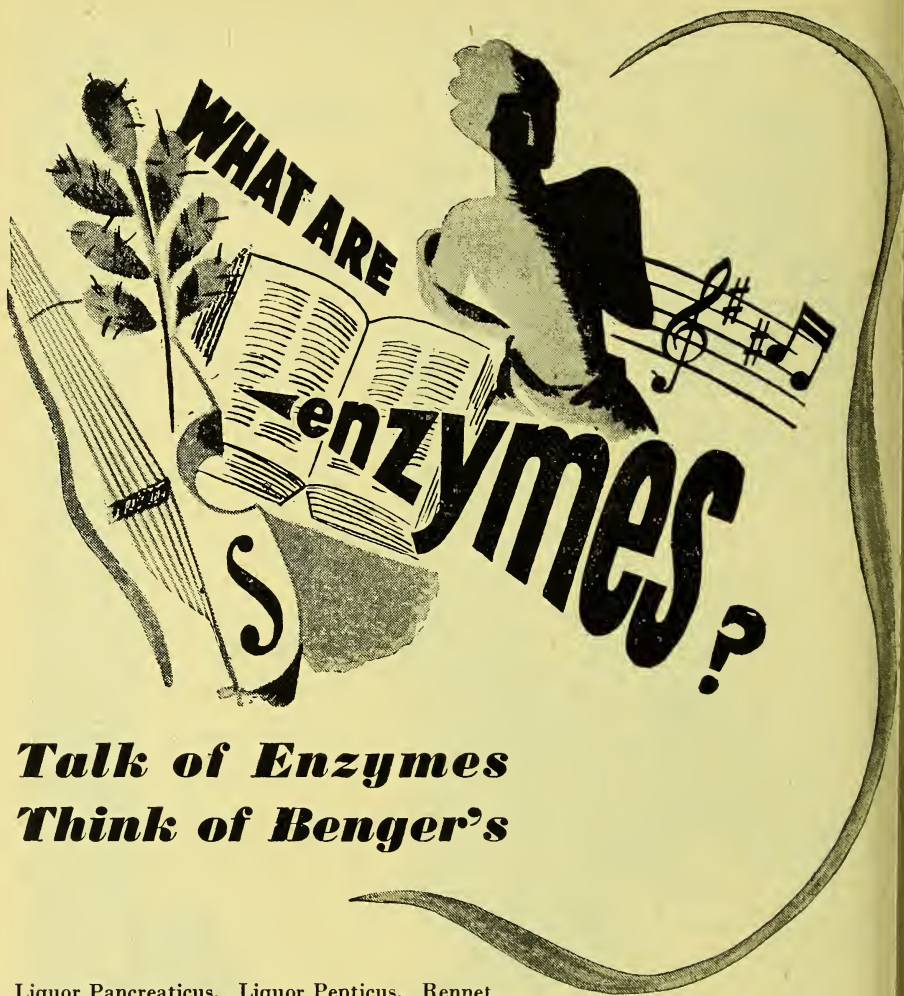
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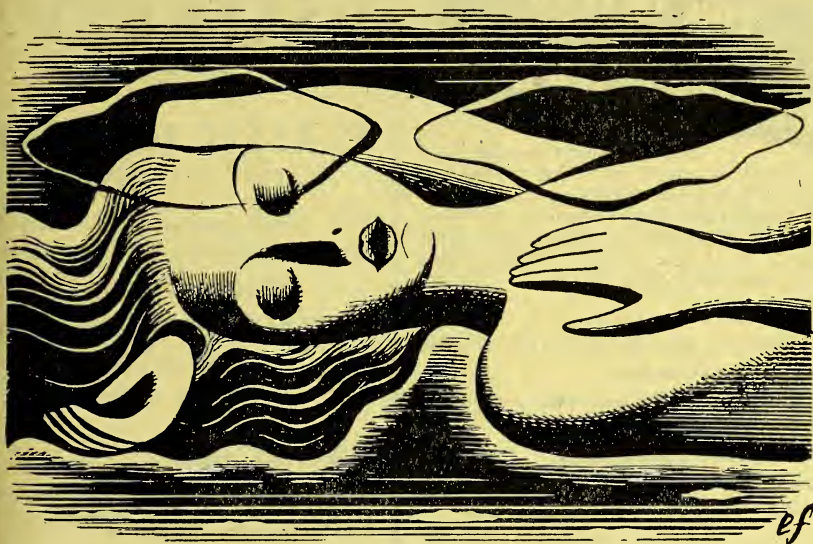
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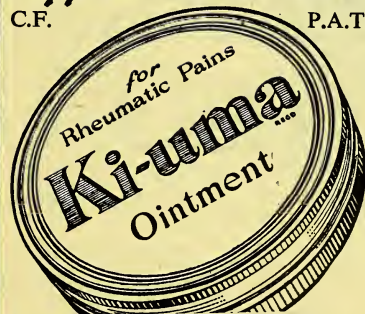


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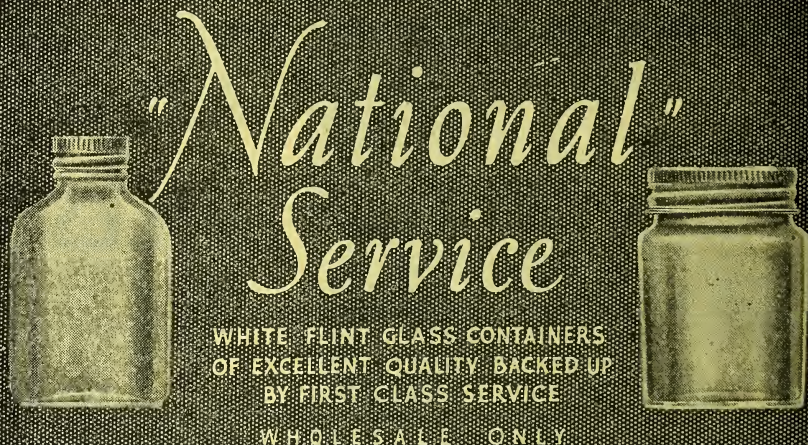


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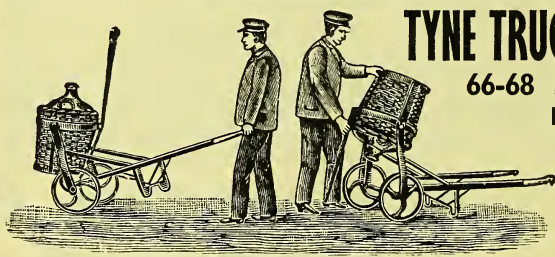
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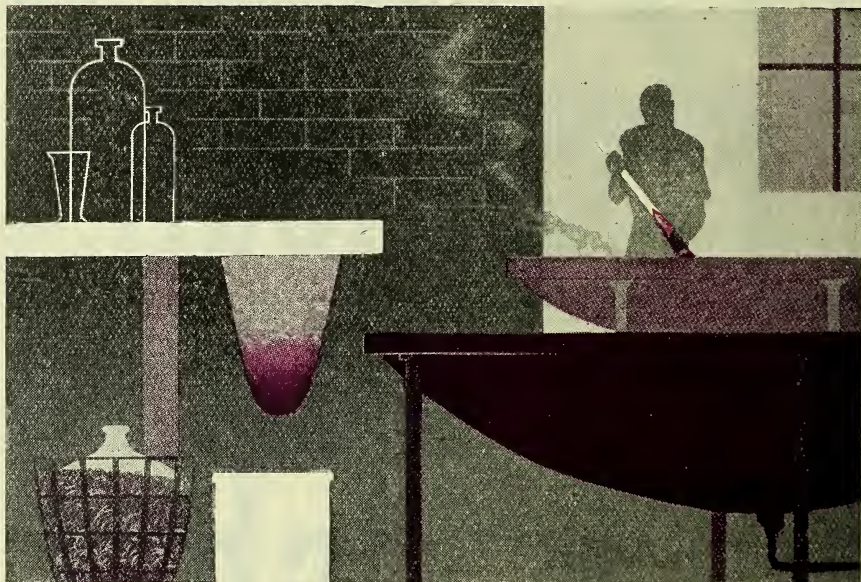
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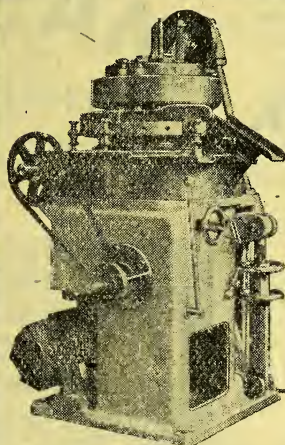
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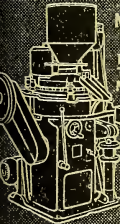
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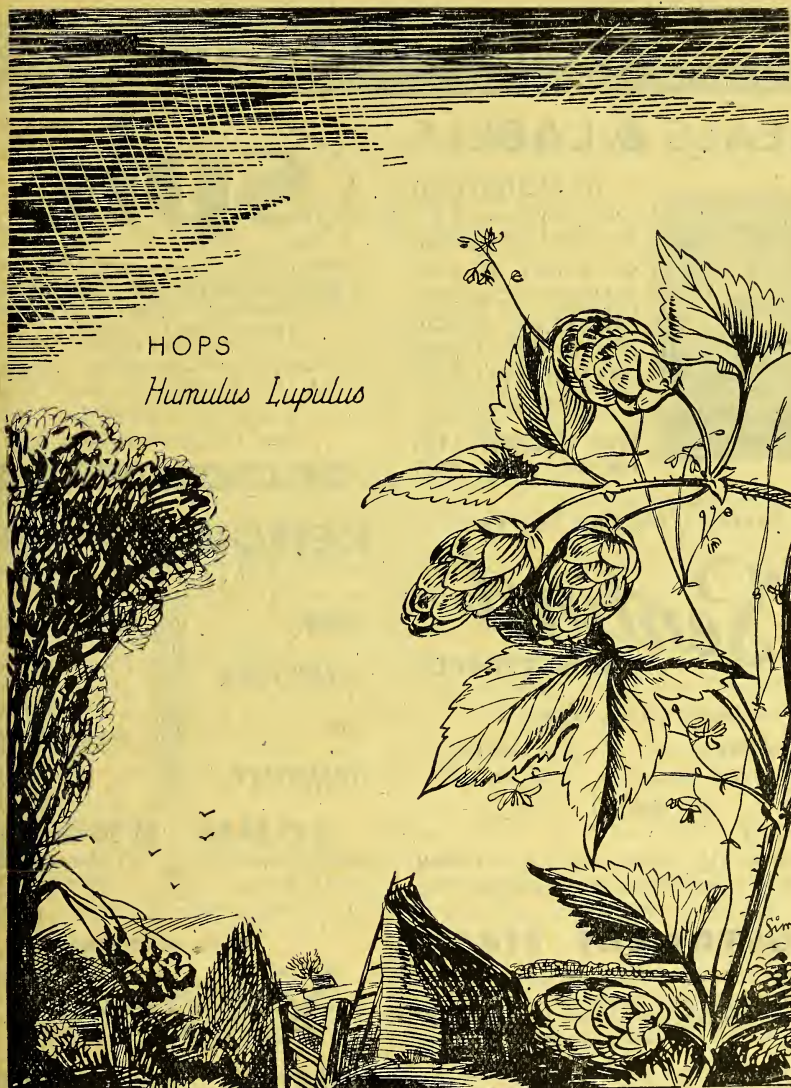
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"A Drop on your Handkerchief"

Like many other products of good repute, Vapex has had to make way for more imperatively urgent needs. Throughout the war pharmaceutical work of national importance has taken an increasing precedence — and will continue to do so — but with the return of normal conditions Vapex will be offered to you again without delay.

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Phenazone acetyl-salicylate	0.096 grams
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INDICATIONS :

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Available in boxes of 4 and 12 cachets.

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Dried Yeast	2 "
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

Insulin Overdose?—At Llanwrst, North Wales, recently, a man accused of driving a motor car while under the influence of a drug was stated to be suffering from an overdose of insulin. The case was dismissed without payment of costs.

Increased Saccharin Supplies.—The Minister of Supply announces that production of saccharin powder is now $2\frac{1}{4}$ times greater than before the war and that of saccharin tablets thirty times greater. Saccharin supplies to the public will be augmented in the near future.

Hospital Floors.—The Ministry of Supply announces that it is now possible to release natural calcined magnesite for laying and maintaining magnesium oxychloride floors in factories, hospitals, etc., and for other work of approved importance. Application for licences to acquire calcined magnesite could be made to the Ministry of Supply, Home Ore, Magnesite and Wolfram Control, Broadway Court, London, S.W.1.

Reminder to Pre-war Herb Importers.—Applications from importers to participate

in the distribution of a limited quantity of imported herbs (see *C. & D.*, September 2, p. 235) should reach the Import Section, Ministry of Food, 59 Holywell Street, Oxford, by September 15.

Key Industry Duty Exemption.—Under the Safeguarding of Industries (Exemption) No. 3 Order, 1944 (S. R. & O., 1944, No. 927) the Treasury has exempted from Key Industry Duty potassium bromide crystals and R-grade potassium chloride crystals, not optically worked, weighing not less than 2.5 gm. each. Copies of the Order, which is effective from August 30, 1944, to June 30, 1945, are obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

New Purchase Tax List.—Notice No. 78, the main public notice relating to the liability of goods to purchase tax, has been revised. The new edition (58 pp.) supersedes that published in September 1942; Notice No. 81A, published in April 1943; and all notices issued prior to July 1, 1944, relating to the liability of goods other than young children's clothing and goods in

Classes 19, 20, and 21. In the course of a few days copies of the notice are being posted to traders registered for purchase-tax purposes. Other persons interested may obtain copies from local officers of Customs and Excise or from the Secretaries' Office, Customs and Excise, City Gate House, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2.

Razor-blade Overcharge.—At Southport, on September 1, George Henry, Lord Street, Southport, was fined £2, with £5 16s. 2d. costs, for selling and offering for sale razor blades at fourpence each when the price should have been twopence.

Lancashire Retailers' Protection Scheme.—A scheme that originated in Bolton, for the formation of a buying and selling agency for the businesses of Chamber of Trade members which for any reason come into the market, is being adopted in a number of Lancashire towns.

In Possession of Opium.—At Hull, recently, Dong Kwei Pao was sentenced to four months' imprisonment and fined £100 and costs for being found in possession of 377 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of prepared opium. Nine cases of opium were found on the ship on which Dong was employed as fireman. At Liverpool, recently, eight Chinese seamen were each fined £10 for being in possession of prepared opium and endeavouring to evade the prohibition on import of the drug. Five of the accused had 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and the other three 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. hidden in their clothing.

Society for Visiting Scientists.—On the initiative of the British Council, in consultation with the Royal Society, a Society for Visiting Scientists has been established in premises at 5 Old Burlington Street, London, W.1. The intention is to provide a meeting-place and information-centre at which scientists can be given advice and information about scientific institutions in this country. The centre will be at the disposal of any visiting scientist, who can go at once to the house and make use of the facilities offered. The president and acting chairman of the Society is Professor H. G. Donnan.

B.M.A. Chairman's N.H.I. Statement.—Dr. H. Guy Dain (chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association) speaking at Birmingham on September 4, said that frequently during the past year the Association had been described as opposed to progress in medical services. That was an entire misrepresentation. "We are not, any of us," he said, "in any sense reactionary or against progress. We are all agreed that a

better medical service should be available for the citizens of this country. The problem is to provide it in such a way that it will be the best possible service." The public should be free to do exactly as it liked in the matter, which should not be tinged with any political ideas. The citizen should be free to choose his doctor and to interchange. The doctors' chief anxiety was the shape the administration. They should have a responsible share in its direction.

Coventry N.P.U. Meeting.—Dr. M. Phillips (director of research, Bayer Products, Ltd.) addressed the Coventry Branch of the National Pharmaceutical Union recently on "The Chemotherapy of the Sulphonamides." Mr. W. A. Bales, who presided, welcomed a number of U.S. Army doctors and members of the local medical profession as guests. The speaker outlined the historical development of the sulphonamides and went on to deal with mode of action, and with work he hoped to do on lipophile sulphonamides.

Stills and Tanks Precautions.—The Working Technical Committee of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers has recently resumed and completed work (suspended at the outbreak of war) on revising the Home Office "Memorandum on Explosion and Gassing Risks in Cleaning, Examination and Repair of Stills, Tanks, etc." The memorandum (Factory Form 814) is available from the Stationery Office, price fourpence, but the committee has prepared a summary of precautions recommended, and this is available to members in the convenient form of a single sheet (9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 6 in.) printed on one side only and gummed along one edge. It is pointed out that the summary has no official status, although copies have been circulated by the Factory Department to its inspectors.

C. & D. QUIZ NO. 36

1. What is peganum?
2. Who was "the Quaker F.R.S."?
3. What is *ol. rusci*?
4. What is oil of spriggs?
5. Who discovered acetic acid in pyroligneous acid?
6. What is Indian ipecac?
7. What is the derivation of the word vanilla?
8. Who was the Society's first treasurer?
9. By whom was adrenaline isolated?
10. What is "marine acid"?

(Answers on p. 282)

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

Territorial Representation

The subject of territorial representation of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society is discussed with a sound basis of statistics in Mr. H. Ridehalgh's article on pp. 244-45. Nothing has occurred to modify the view expressed in this section of your issue of October 11, 1941, that the Council would gain by having a larger proportion of nominated members; and when, in December of the same year, Part of the report of the Committee of Inquiry appeared, I was interested to find that it contained an almost identical suggestion. If this change is effected, the number of elected members may possibly be reduced, though the idea is purely speculative on my part. Without attempting a full summary of what has been said or written during the past twenty-five years on this method of representation, it may be mentioned that in 1919 the Organising Committee of the Council presented a report dealing in the first place with a territorial scheme for election to the Local Associations Executive, but also including reference to the feasibility of a similar scheme for Council elections. At the British Pharmaceutical Conference of 1936 the elected representatives of the Society discussed a resolution from the Plymouth and District Branch recommending territorial representation in these elections; it was rejected in favour of a report by the Council proposing to study the subject afresh. An examination of each of your issues for the past eight years might disclose further steps on the part of the Council, and I seem to remember that a few months ago we were promised a reconsideration of the matter.

Large and Small Constituencies

Your contributor's modest estimate of the details of his plan does not affect its soundness. Something is wrong when, as the sketch-map indicates, Yorkshire has 10 seats for a membership of 1,947, while Lancashire, with 3,386 members, has only 6. (Incidentally, the Manchester area has lately failed to secure its customary representation.) One of the main questions to be settled in preparing a sound territorial system of election seems to me to be the extent of each constituency. In the 1919 report referred to in the preceding paragraph the electorate was divided into six areas; adding one for Scotland, the whole of Great Britain would have seven, whereas

Mr. Ridehalgh's scheme allots thirteen to it. It may be that some of our talented statisticians can devise a perfectly equitable ratio of seats to membership. In the article before me, for instance, the proposed South-west Region, with approximately 800 members, is given one seat, while the next region on the list, with a membership of 5,614, is given only five seats, and another, with 2,931 members, only two. These figures, taken at random, illustrate the difficulty of carving out new constituencies. Your offer to give space for correspondence on this important topic (p. 249) will, I trust, have an adequate response.

A Concise Dispensatory

Your account of "The British Dispensatory" of 1747, a book now rare, I believe (pp. 254-56), is of great interest. In the middle years of the eighteenth century there was a definite stirring among the dry bones of traditional formulas; some came to life in better articulation, and others were relegated to the scrap-heap. Though the Act of Union with Scotland was passed as early as 1707, the London and Edinburgh Pharmacopœias continued on their separate courses till the Medical Act of 1858 came into force. The effects of this medical conservatism were, however, mitigated by the issue of books like "The British Dispensatory," Gray's "Supplement to the Pharmacopœias," and Thomson's Dispensatory. At first sight the fact that the volume described in your article is anonymous is rather surprising. For this anonymity there may, of course, have been more than one reason. A preliminary advertisement from the publisher of the book, Edward Cave, appeared in "The Gentleman's Magazine" for July 1747, and was followed three months later by an announcement that the Dispensatory was ready and that its price was 2s. 6d. In the absence of any better candidate for the authorship, I venture to suggest the name of Peter Shaw, M.D., physician for a few years to George II and George III. The lists of Shaw's works in the Dictionary of National Biography and in Munk's Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London are admittedly incomplete; from the fact that they include similar translations and commentaries I deduce a probability of his undertaking the work offered by Cave. In the latter part of George II's reign Shaw was interested in the therapeutic effects of spas.

Xrayser

LEGAL REPORTS

Pharmacist Imprisoned.—At Glasgow sheriff court, on August 24, William Smillie Brown, M.P.S., was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on a charge of defrauding the City Welfare Department of £241 paid to him as relief between February 1942 and June 1944, on the understanding that his income was 5s. weekly from a lodger and 17s. 6d. from his daughter's wages. It was stated that accused had been in business for himself and lived at Cathcart. Following a nervous breakdown he was sent to a mental hospital, relief being paid to his wife and daughter and also to himself after his discharge. He objected to officials calling at his home and the money was sent monthly by registered post, accused agreeing to notify the department if his circumstances changed. It was found that he secured employment in February 1942 as manager of a shop, but he had not notified the authorities.

Remanded on Theft Charge.—At Clerkenwell, London, police court, on August 26, Daniel Jedwab, described as a merchant, of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing, by means of a trick, on November 24, 1943, a sum of £1,000, the property of Harman Dietetic Laboratories. A detective-inspector, who asked for a remand in custody, stated that the case would be conducted by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Defendant was alleged to be the principal of a firm which advertised in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* that saccharin tablets could be supplied, and to have received money totalling some thousands of pounds without supplying the goods. The firm went bankrupt in March 1944. Applying for bail, counsel for the defence said his client could offer substantial sureties. He had had a permanent address until recently, but had been bombed out and was now living at the Strand Palace Hotel; he strongly denied his guilt and said he was not the principal of the firm in question. Defendant was remanded until September 7, and was granted bail subject to the production of two sureties in £500 each, with a condition that he should report daily to the police.

On Bail on Perfumery Charges.—At Clerkenwell, London, police court on August 30, Nripatinath Ghose, described as a proprietor, 47 Museum Street, W.C.1, and Murshed Ali, described as a cook, 1 Goldington Crescent, N.W.1, appeared

on charges arising from alleged contraventions of the Toilet Preparations Ordinance. They were charged with conspiring together and with other persons unknown between August 30, 1943, and August 1944, at 47 Museum Street and other places in London. Ghose was charged with carrying on a business of supplying perfumes at 47 Museum Street without being registered and without a licence, not being a person who, on October 1, 1941, was carrying on a business in the United Kingdom of supplying controlled goods manufactured by him. There was a similar charge against Ali of carrying on business at Mornington Crescent, 1 Goldington Crescent, and elsewhere. Ghose was further charged with buying or receiving as selling agent bottles of perfume which were not goods in the manufacture of which process had been carried out by a person whose name was entered in the register and with supplying bottles of perfume which did not bear the name and address of the person who manufactured the goods. Ali was charged with supplying bottles of perfume not marked with the name and address of the person who manufactured them. Both defendants were remanded on bail for a week.

INQUESTS

Aspirin Suicide.—A verdict that she took her own life while the balance of her mind was disturbed was returned by the coroner at York recently, at an inquest on the body of B. J. Wilson, who died after taking between gr. 200 and gr. 400 of aspirin.

Camphorated Oil.—A verdict of suicide while the balance of her mind was temporarily disturbed was returned recently at an inquest on Lillian May Griffiths, Vine Street, Walsall, who died as the result of drinking camphorated oil.

Wife Took Nicotine.—A verdict that she died of syncope following the self-administration of nicotine, which she took while the balance of her mind was disturbed, was returned at an inquest on Mrs. M. Agnes Stansfield, Blackheath, London, S.E.1, recently.

Digitoxin.—A verdict of suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed was returned by the coroner at Brighton recently on Dr. James Allen Stewart, aged seventy-eight, who died after taking what was described as "a tremendous overdose of digitoxin."

COMPANY NEWS

MARION GAY, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Manufacturers of and dealers in cosmetics, soaps, shampoos, etc. Directors named. R.O.: 18 Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

ITAPRODUCTS (LONDON), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Wholesale, retail, and manufacturing chemists, etc. Dr. Adam Clark, director. R.O.: 142 The Grove, Bedford, London, E.15.

LEMBROSE, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Manufacturers of and wholesale and retail dealers in toilet preparations, chemicals, etc. Directors to be appointed. Solicitors: Me & Stone, London, E.C.2.

DEL VOST, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £10,000. Manufacturers of and dealers in toilet requisites, proprietary articles, etc. Harold Glaisher, M.P.S., and George Fentie, directors. R.O.: 88 Mosley Street, Manchester, 2.

CAPSULES PHARMACEUTICAL (SOUTHERN) LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £100. Manufacturers and dealers in pharmaceutical preparations, etc. Directors to be appointed. Director: E. C. Randall, 28 Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

L. LANCASHIRE (BALLYMENA), LTD. (P.C.).—Registered in Belfast. Capital £1,000. Wholesale and retail chemists, druggists, etc. Mrs. E. Givens and Mary C. Lancashire, Ph.C., directors. R.O.: 17-19 Church Street, Ballymena.

OXYGENAIRE (BRISTOL), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Manufacturers of and dealers in oxygen tents and supplies, etc. George W. Higgs and S. Douglas Higgs, directors. Solicitors: Cohen & Cohen, 112 Salisbury House, London, E.C.2.

W. G. MITCHELL (DERRY), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £2,000. Manufacturing, pharmaceutical, analytical and dispensing chemists, etc. James Mitchell, M.D., and Humphrey V. Campbell, directors. R.O.: William Street, Londonderry.

BAUFAX BEAUTYN PREPARATIONS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £100. To acquire the business of manufacturers of and dealers in cosmetics carried on by F. H. Bastick at Union Street, Torquay. Ronald F. H. Bastick and Phillip B. R. Bastick, directors.

LINDSEYS (SOUTHSEA), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Manufacturers of and dealers in surgical, medical and optical appliances, etc. Charles H. R. Lindsey and Grace M. Lindsey, directors. R.O.: Aldwych House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2.

H. SIMPSON FOSTER & Co., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. To acquire the business of chemists carried on as "Foster & Sons" at 106 Queens Road, London, S.E.15 and 46 Lordship Lane, London, S.E.22. Cecil H. Foster, M.P.S., and William E. Foster, M.P.S., directors. R.O.: 14 Forest Hill Road, London, S.E.23.

RAIMES, CLARK & Co., LTD., EDINBURGH.—Mr. George Denholm has been appointed a director. Mr. Denholm is in charge of the office of the company.

J. & E. ATKINSON, LTD.—Net profit for 1943 amounted to £72,729, against £66,085 in 1942. Dividend on ordinary shares is 10 per cent., tax free (against 5 per cent., tax free). Forward, £13,541 (£10,312).

R. HOVENDEN & SONS, Ltd.—Trading profit for year ended January 8 amounted to £54,672, against £46,770 in the previous year. Dividend on ordinary shares is 10 per cent. (6 per cent.) for year. £37,466 (£36,007) is carried forward.

TIMOTHY WHITES & TAYLORS, LTD., and associated companies.—Trading profit of Timothy Whites & Taylors, Ltd., for the year ended December 25, 1943, amounted to £538,500, against £439,778 in the previous year. Net profit was £138,312, against £137,077. Dividend on ordinary capital is maintained at 30 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance of £80,279, against £77,685 brought in. Results for 1943 of four subsidiary companies were (1942 figures in parentheses): **TAYLORS (CASH CHEMISTS) TRUST, LTD.**—Revenue, £85,775 (£78,435); income tax, £42,413 (£38,795); preferred dividend, 9.886 per cent. (8.522 per cent.); deferred dividend, 12.083 per cent. (10.416 per cent.). **TAYLORS (CASH CHEMISTS) LONDON, LTD.**—Profit, £125,826 (£94,237); depreciation, £5,664 (£5,968); taxation, £94,500 (£64,100); preferred dividend, 4.8 per cent. (4.6 per cent.); deferred dividend, 5.333 per cent. (4.62 per cent.). **TAYLORS (CASH CHEMISTS) MIDLAND, LTD.**—Profit, £119,525; depreciation, £3,965 (£4,442); taxation, £93,200 (£56,000); ordinary dividend, 12½ per cent., less tax (same); deferred dividend, 32½ per cent., tax free (28½ per cent.); forward, £12,935 (£12,728). **TAYLORS DRUG Co., LTD.**—Trading profit, £219,500 (£144,500); depreciation, £8,118 (£8,740); taxation, £157,750 (£81,300); ordinary dividend, 8½ per cent. (same); forward, £8,617 (£8,561).

TRADE NOTES

Supplies Available.—Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., Bethnal Green, London, E.2, announce that they are in a position at present to meet orders for Allenburys dextrin maltose No. 1.

A Winter Speciality.—W. B. Cartwright, Ltd., Rawdon, Leeds, distributors of Lobelline cough mixture, recommend chemists to place orders now for this speciality, which will shortly be in seasonal demand.

Derby Technical College.—Intending evening students at the College should register on September 18, 19 and 20, either at Normanton Road, Derby, between 7 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., or by post. The term commences on September 25. Courses include matriculation, intermediate and final B.Sc., and the examination of the Spectacle Makers' Company.

Glycerin Supplies.—Recently the glycerin position in Britain has considerably improved, and applications for supplies are now being considered from recognised users. Fredk. Boehm, Ltd., Rowanhurst, Grove Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks, point out that they are the sole distributors for Thomas Hedley & Co., Ltd., Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne and London.

Business Changes

ASCOTTS PHARMACIES (1933), LTD., have purchased the business of Morgan Bros., of 8 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

BUSINESS LICENCE APPLICATION.—E. A. Ireland, to sell chiropody appliances, dressings and lotions at 71 Allerton Road, Liverpool, 8.

LONDON CO-OPERATIVE CHEMISTS, LTD., a subsidiary of London Co-operative Society, Ltd., has signed a contract for the transfer of sixteen pharmacies from Ascott's Pharmacies (1933), Ltd., all on the north side of the Thames. It is anticipated that possession will be at an early date. The purchase includes goodwill, fixtures, fittings and stock-in-trade. The pharmacies are situated at Barnsbury, Barking, Barking, Burnt Oak, Battersea, Bowes Park, Chiswick, Edgware Road, Kensal Rise, Leyton, Limehouse, Neasden, Southall (2), Tottenham, White Cross Street and Woodford. The company's pharmacies on the south of the river are not affected by this transaction. The number of pharmacies and drug stores now owned by London Co-operative Chemists, Ltd., and the London Co-operative Society, Ltd., is seventy-eight.

TRADE MARKS

(From "The Trade Marks Journal," August 2)

"**SOLANT**"; for razor blades (8). By Solent Manufacturing Co. (Southampton), Ltd., 1 Regent Street, Sheffield, 1. 627,630.

"**PARAMOTH**"; for chemical preparations to exterminate moths (5). By May & Baker Ltd., Dagenham, Essex. B623,053.

"**LANCO**"; for spectacle frames and lenses, sunglasses, cameras, optical instruments etc. (9). By Jules Lang (Optical) Co., Ltd. Charlton Works, Islington, London, N. 629,106.

Device of bunch of grapes, etc., and word "Sunnyvine Grape Juice," etc. (use of word "Sunnyvine" and device of bunch of grapes disclaimed); for grape juice (non-fermented). By Mapleton's Nut Food Co., Ltd., 100 Street, Garston, Liverpool. B627,2 (Associated).

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 10

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION
Ramble from Buxton to Three Shires. Meet at Central Station, 8.30 a.m. Book Buxton return. Inquiries to W. Edwards, O. Trafford.

Monday, September 11

ROMFORD BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY
Market Room, Golden Lion Hotel, Romford at 7.30 p.m. Mr. A. L. Bacharach, M.A., "Penicillin."

Tuesday, September 12

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION AND BRANCH OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Onward Hall, 207 Deansgate, Manchester, at 7.45 p.m. Mr. Hugh Linstead, O.B.E., M.P. (secretary of the Society), on "The Pharmacist and the National Health Service."

NEWCASTLE BRANCH, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PHARMACISTS, Kinnaird Hall, Saville Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne, at 7 p.m. Miss Margaret Bell (Royal Victoria Infirmary) on "Hospital Pharmacy," followed by discussion, led by Miss Wardle, on "Should Women Pharmacists be Paid Less than Men?" Refreshments.

Wednesday, September 13

IRISH CHEMISTS' RUGBY CLUB, Jury's Hotel, Dublin, at 8.15 p.m. Annual Meeting.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Grand Hotel, Birmingham, at 7 p.m. Mr. F. G. Wells (president of the Society) "Pharmacy and the Future in Reference to the White Paper."

LIVERPOOL CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION AND BRANCH OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, at 7 p.m. Mr. Hugh N. Linstead, O.B.E., M.P. (secretary of the Society) on "The Pharmacist's Place in a National Medical Service."

BIRTH

DURCAN.—At Bridge Street, Ballina, recently, the wife of Mr. M. G. Durcan, P.S.I., of a son.

DEATHS

CHABÔT.—On August 14, Mr. Frank Chabôt, 35 Bowstoke Road, Great Barr, Birmingham. Mr. Chabôt qualified as a chemist and druggist in 1881 and as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1882.

DOWNING.—On August 26, Mr. James Downing, M.P.S., 257 Archway Road, London, N.6. Mr. Downing was a founder-member and past-president of the North London Pharmaceutical Association, and was formerly an auditor for the Middlesex Pharmaceutical Committee. He qualified in 1891.

EDGEALL.—On September 3, Mr. H. Colin Edgeall, general manager, Milton Antiseptic, Ltd., Pophleys, Radnage, High Wycombe, Bucks.

FOX.—On May 16, Mr. Thomas Bevan Fox, M.P.S., 9 Highfield Avenue, Golders Green, London, N.W.11. Mr. Fox qualified in 1909.

GANLEY.—On active service, recently, Mr. Bernard Ganley, M.P.S., 7 Ethel Terrace, Levenshulme, Manchester. Mr. Ganley qualified in 1942 and was serving in the Royal West Kent Regiment.

HUGGETT.—Presumed killed as a result of enemy action in March 1944. Mr. Ronald Verdun Huggett, M.P.S., 30 Camelord Road, Greenbank, Bristol, 5. Mr. Huggett qualified in 1940.

LAMBERT.—At 85 Bawtry Road, Doncaster, on August 1, Mr. John Thomas Lambert, aged eighty-five. Mr. Lambert qualified as a chemist and druggist in 1882.

OLLEY.—While on active service in Normandy, recently, Lieutenant Bruce L. Olley, Royal Artillery, aged twenty-seven, a director of C. Olley & Sons, Ltd., cork manufacturers, London, E.1, and elder son of Mr. Leonard C. Olley, managing director of the company. Lieutenant Olley, after passing through Loughton School, became one of the captains of the Old Loughtonians' Hockey Club. He joined the Honourable Artillery Company in February 1940, after serving as a lieutenant in the Cadet Regiment of the Essex Royal Artillery. He was also assistant secretary of the Stepney Rotary Club. Lieutenant Olley is survived by his widow.

SEMMELE.—On August 16, Mr. Isbert Semmel, 21 Dorset Drive, Edgware, aged

sixty-six. Mr. Semmel registered as a foreign pharmacist in 1944.

SHADFORTH.—Reported by the Red Cross to be "missing, believed killed," and by the Germans to be killed, at Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on June 13, Squadron-Leader Wallace Gordon Shadforth, a son of Mr. William Shadforth, Ph.C.

THOMAS.—On August 28, Dr. Ethel Nancy Miles Thomas, D.Sc., F.L.S., Fellow and gold medallist of the University College, London. During the 1914-18 war Dr. Miles Thomas carried out pathological work for the War Office and for the Medical Research Committee.

WALTON.—On August 11, Sergeant-Pilot Eric Egbert Walton, a son of Mr. W. H. Walton, M.P.S., Kegworth, Derby.

PERSONALITIES

MR. PICKEN, a representative of Brook, Parker & Co., Ltd., Bradford, has retired after forty years' service with the company.

MAJOR BLYTHE (Blythe & Co., manufacturing chemists, Church, Lancs) is home on leave after five years' service with H.M. Forces overseas.

PROFESSOR GEORGE CYRIL ALLEN (a University of Liverpool economist) has been appointed a member of the Central Price Regulation Committee.

ALDERMAN J. H. COLEMAN, M.P.S., and Mrs. Coleman, have been presented with an inscribed silver bowl by the directors of the Wolverhampton Freeholders' Permanent Building Society to mark the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. Alderman Coleman has been a director of the Society since 1925.

CAPTAIN F. SWAFFIELD, recently senior representative and sometime advertising manager of the Chesebrough Manufacturing Co., Ltd., has been awarded a certificate of merit for good service by the General Officer Commanding, London District, Home Guard. Captain Swaffield has been with the company for twenty-four years.

MR. PHILIP HIRST, a son of Mr. J. L. Hirst, M.P.S. (a past-president of the Liverpool Chemists' Association), has been appointed architect to the government of Irak. He won several scholarships, amongst them the Rome scholarship in architecture, and was released from the Army when in the Middle East to undertake special work for the Irak government. He is now engaged in preparing a town-planning scheme for Baghdad and the designing of railway stations in the main towns of Irak.

INSURANCE ACT DISPENSING

Birmingham.—The following are the principal details of the Drug Account for Birmingham for 1943, and comparisons with the previous year: Number of prescriptions, 2,344,989 (9½ per cent. increase). Total value, £105,332 (12½ per cent. increase). Average cost per prescription ingredients, 5.53d. (6 per cent. increase). Fees, 5.25d. (1½ per cent. increase). Pharmaceutical Committee's expenses, including cost of checking, 0.73 per cent. of fees. The number of persons and firms supplying drugs and appliances on the panel on May 31 was 238 (227 dispensing and eleven non-dispensing); the number of shops was 406 (393 dispensing and thirteen non-dispensing).

Herefordshire.—Prescriptions dispensed in the area of the county Insurance Committee during 1943 totalled 123,681, the average cost per prescription being 11.9d., and the average total cost per insured person 48.8d. The figure for prescriptions was 4,443 less than in the previous year. Scrutiny of the figures by the National Pharmaceutical Union revealed only two errors of threepence each. The Clerk to the Insurance Committee described this as a remarkable result, considering war-time difficulties, and said chemists should congratulate themselves on the fact that prescriptions were so correctly priced. The Committee decided to place on record its appreciation of the high standard of pricing attained.

Lancashire.—In ten affiliated areas of the Lancashire Prescription Bureau during 1943 2,675,696 prescriptions were dispensed, against 2,437,984 in 1942 and 2,338,975 in 1941. The average costs per prescription for the three years were: 11.29d., 11d., and 10.70d. respectively; the average costs per insured person being 60.87d.; 54.51d., and 50.80d.; and the average frequency 5.39, 4.95, and 4.75.

Surrey.—During the year ended May 31 sixteen deletions occurred from the Panel of chemists in the area of the county Pharmaceutical Committee. Fourteen of them were due to pharmacists' having been called up, or inability to provide qualified managers. The district pharmaceutical war committee has held many meetings to consider applications from employers for both men and women for deferment of call-up, but has had considerable difficulty in retaining sufficient of both to maintain a satisfactory pharmaceutical service. Members

are of the firm opinion that for practical purposes no more men can be spared from pharmacy, otherwise it is feared that there may be a breakdown in the service. The following is a summary of chemists' accounts for the years 1943 and 1942:—

	1943	1942
Prescriptions ..	1,747,632	1,529,624
Ingredient prices..	£54,422	£45,391
Total value ..	£93,734	£79,301
Average total of insured persons	434,254	429,249
Average cost per prescription ..	12.9d.	12.4d.
Average cost per insured person..	51.8d.	44.3d.

WILLS

MR. JOHN BAKER CANNINGTON KERSHAW, late of Cheltenham, retired analytical chemist, left £16,337. with net personalty £13,932.

MR. EMIL HATSCHKE, 25 Priory Court, Mazenod Avenue, London, N.W.6., an authority on colloids, left £17,573. with net personalty £17,474.

MR. EDWARD KAY, 25 Lake Road, Henleaze, Bristol, formerly of Bury, Lancs. manufacturing chemist, left £5,306. with net personalty £121.

MR. ERNEST BECKWITH, M.P.S., 22 Shirley Drive, Hove, proprietor of Watts & Co., chemists, left £5,650. with net personalty £243.

MR. HENRY GEORGE BARHAM, Monkton Wyld, Weybridge Park, Weybridge, Surrey, druggists' sundriesman, left £2,358. with net personalty £786.

ALDERMAN PERCY KNOTT, J.P., M.P.S., 276 Blackburn Road, Bolton, Lancs., a former mayor of the borough, left £8,842. with net personalty £8,721.

MR. WILLIAM TOM HIND, M.P.S., 30 Central Avenue, Leicester and 78 Queens Road, Clarendon Park, Leicester, left £16,094. with net personalty, £8,677.

MR. HUGH WILLIAM WALLIS, M.P.S., Halestead, Fern Road, Whitby, Wirral, Cheshire, proprietor of the Hoole Pharmacy, Chester, formerly treasurer of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and a past-chairman of Ellesmere Port Urban District Council, left £9,199. with net personalty £344.

ADDRESS TO PHARMACEUTICAL EMPLOYEES

FOLLOWING the annual meeting of the National Pharmaceutical Employees' Union (C. & D., August 19, p. 200), MR. THOMAS REID (vice-chairman) addressed an open meeting of employees. In the course of his speech, Mr. Reid said: I have been asked to speak to you at this stage, and I would like to make it quite clear that in speaking of the future I am giving my own personal views in the hope that whatever I may say will stimulate discussion and prompt better suggestions for the benefit of pharmacy as a whole and the N.P.E.U. in particular. I am not in any shape or form attempting to impose my views upon the members or the Executive Committee. The N.P.E.U. differs from every other organisation for pharmaceutical employees in that we are absolutely self-governing and owe no allegiance to other organisations or other trades or professions. In short, everyone connected with the N.P.E.U. is a person who is permanently within pharmacy. The Executive is elected by simple democratic methods and can be removed from office by the same simple process. We are absolutely non-political, so there is little fear that any change of the political picture will alter effectiveness.

If you will bear in mind the foregoing points I have made and also remember that the pioneer spirits amongst us are all men of some experience who each hold responsible positions within retail pharmacy, you will appreciate the unselfish motives that have prompted each of us to give the time and consideration to the organisation of the people in pharmacy. Each and every one of us were actuated by the great lack of any suitable organisation, and when we realised that we had this common desire to create the ideal organisation progress was made. That we have indeed founded on a sure basis is proved by the progress we have made in our first short year. Our teething troubles are over and we are now in the position of knowing that we are not alone in realising the need of an independent, self-governing and non-political body that could properly represent employees.

Future Policy

I feel sure the policy we have outlined together is one that is not in any way antagonistic to our present or future employers. We have done, and we hope to do, that which they would try to do if they were in our position. Particularly the qualified people have that common bond

with the proprietor pharmacists that makes the understanding of each other's problems so very much easier. I suggest that we must build on that foundation which alone will ensure success. Then when difficult times arrive we shall be better able to face our common problems together. Our one common bond is the Society and the qualification. We are entitled to some representation on the Society's Council, and this brings me to a point that I fear some of my colleagues on the executive committee may not completely agree with. I feel that we should be reasonable in all our demands. We must recognise the other fellow's point of view as we trust he will be willing also to see ours. The recent Council election was from some angles a great mistake. The election was necessary itself, but the mistake that was made was that candidates just cropped up all over the place, and in the resultant confusion of policies and claims there was no change.

Interest in Branch Activities

Looking ahead let us ask ourselves how we can best help the cause of the pharmaceutical employee. I first submit that we should all take a lively interest in local Branch affairs. Let us always be tolerant of other points of view, but by a sound and reasoned policy make our own views felt, always supporting progress if it so merits, and generally by example making it clear the N.P.E.U. is not a militant organisation, but one that aims at being helpful and progressive. Let us always remember that we are pharmacists first, last, and all the time, and even if some of us should feel that by becoming part of the civil service we can better our lot (personally I do not share this view, though it may be suited to some temperaments) let us face up to the fact that for many years at least the retail shop will remain and most of us will, through the shops, gain our living.

Our chairman, in his remarks and the secretary in his report, have shown the progress we have made. Personally I am gratified at the results, and would like to acknowledge my gratitude to these two men who have worked hard in our interests. If we are all sincere in our endeavours for the future, then there is not the slightest doubt that within a comparatively short space of time the N.P.E.U. will become numerically, in policy and in reputation, the organisation that will stand the test of time.

STORY OF A NEW EIRE INDUSTRY

DURING the summer of 1942 a Skibbereen man, who had emigrated to America as a boy and had established himself as a manufacturing chemist first in the United States and later in England, returned with his family on a visit to Ireland. The visit brought him into contact with the National Agricultural and Industrial Development Association in Dublin. At that time the Association was keenly interested in developing an Irish medicinal herb industry, and the Irish-American industrialist was persuaded to explore the possibilities of establishing a pharmaceutical manufacturing business in Eire, based on the products of the country. The result was the creation of National Chemical Industries, Ltd. With the assistance of a brother who was experienced in Irish affairs, the enterprising homecomer set about building up a new organisation to manufacture fine chemicals. The original idea of utilising the medicinal herbs that grow in profusion in Ireland has not materialised, for a variety of reasons. Collection of the herbs is haphazard and unorganised, and medicinal herb farming, as it exists in the United States and Britain, is unknown in Ireland.

Animal Substances

After consultation with the Eire Emergency Scientific Research Bureau and Professor E. J. Conway (University College, Dublin), the directors of the newly-formed National Chemical Industries, Ltd., therefore turned their attention to utilising the valuable animal products to be had in the country. Young chemists of high academic qualifications from University College, Dublin, were taken on to staff the laboratories in the company's premises at Temple Lane, Dublin, and under expert guidance the first Irish-made liver extract was produced. The raw material was the liver of Irish cattle killed under supervision at the Dublin abattoir. Clinical tests proved the worth of this first pure pharmaceutical product to be made by the company, and it is now being marketed under the name of Hæmalon. Concurrently with the production of liver extract for oral administration, ampoules for intramuscular use were made, and the directors are now working on the production of a new and improved type of liver extract ampoule in accordance with recent advances in the United States. The new product will shortly be available for clinical tests by the medical

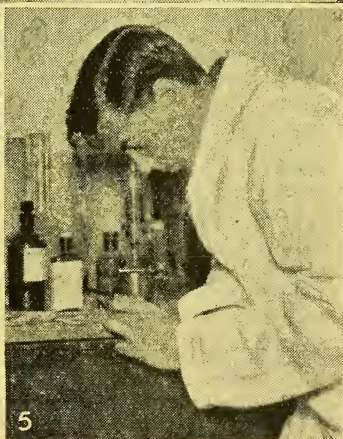
profession in Dublin. Next, the company proceeded to manufacture insulin and adrenaline from Irish pancreas and glands, but both products are being subjected to prolonged testing before release. The ground is also being prepared for the production of vaccines and serums, for both human and veterinary use.

Proposed Penicillin Manufacture

Test batches of sulphonamide drugs have already been made, and even more important is the news that the company is immediately concerned with the problem of producing penicillin in Eire on a commercial scale, and is negotiating for special premises for the purpose. The company is also using tons of Irish malt for a range of malt-extract preparations. The best known today amongst Irish pharmacists is Maltol, a malt and vitamin preparation. Bevoline, Ltd., a subsidiary company, is also using Irish malt extract in its tonic food beverage Bevoline, in which Irish powdered milk and eggs are other constituents. From Maurice Fitzgerald & Co., Ltd., distributors for the company, come Maryland malted milk and a malt-extract and halibut-liver oil preparation. In addition, there is being marketed a wide range of popular counter lines for chemists, including cough, blood and gripe mixtures, syrup of figs, stomach powder, hair creams and shampoos, and a branded domestic insecticide, Killem. These products are helping to keep busy some five chemists and over thirty-five other workers until the concern moves into larger premises (which have been already secured) and until it is possible to obtain all the plant necessary to extend much further the fine chemical end of the business. The objective the directors have before them is to create an exclusively Irish drug industry, built up upon herb, animal, and other raw materials produced within the country. Medicinal herb farms will be fostered all over Ireland to grow belladonna, digitalis, and other medicinal plants. The founders pay grateful tribute to the valued help and co-operation they have received from the Departments of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, Supplies, Local Government and Public Health, from the Emergency Research Council, and from Professor Conway of University College.

No. 1 War Material.—Millions of tons of waste paper are wanted for repulping.

OPERATIONS AT A DUBLIN DRUG WORKS



1. Operating an electric emulsifier used for hair creams. 2. At work in the galenical department. 3. Filling bottles of eye-lotion. 4. Filling and sealing ampoules of liver extract. 5. A microscopical examination in the laboratory.

BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY (II)

by T. D. Whittet, Ph.C., D.B.A. (Pharmaceutical Department, Charing Cross Hospital, London)

BLOOD, because of its natural functions as the principal means of transport of food material, hormones and waste products throughout the body, rapidly shows deviation from normality in disease. Hence it is the most important body fluid to the chemical pathologist, and blood analysis may often confirm a diagnosis without need of further tests. Also, the now frequent use of large doses of such potent drugs as the sulphonamides often renders it essential for the physician to follow the course of treatment by observing the blood-level of the drug through frequent chemical tests. It is unnecessary here to describe the structure of blood, but it is emphasised that many of its constituents are unevenly distributed between the cells and plasma. Thus it is imperative to state whether analysis has been carried out on whole blood, plasma or serum. In addition to purely chemical tests several clinical tests are of importance, and these will be briefly discussed.

Blood Sedimentation Rate

Increasing use of the "gold treatment" (sodium aurothiomalate or gold sodium thiosulphate) for rheumatoid arthritis and pulmonary tuberculosis, has made the blood (more correctly, erythrocyte) sedimentation test of supreme importance. The test gives valuable indication of the activity and progress of infective processes. Several techniques are available, that of Westergren being the most satisfactory. The method uses a small-bore tube calibrated in mm., zero mark being 200 mm. from the point. A measured quantity of blood is drawn into a syringe containing 3.8 per cent. sodium citrate as anticoagulant. The mixture is then emptied into a specimen tube and drawn up to the 200 mm. mark in the Westergren tube, which is stood upright in a stand. The height of the supernatant plasma is read at the end of one hour, and is compared with results within the normal range. As to this test, two important and useful observations have been made by pharmacists. Milne (*C. & D.*, 1943. I. 345) showed that a solution containing 3 per cent. of sodium citrate is isotonic with blood serum, not 3.8 per cent. as previously believed. Henriksen (*"Pharmaceutical Journal,"* 1942. I. 14) proved that the antiseptic *p*-chloro-*m*-cresol is

unsuitable as a sterilising agent in sodium citrate solution, since it vitiates results of the test. Phenyl-mercuric nitrate, however, introduces no appreciable error.

All pharmacists are now familiar with liver therapy in pernicious and other anæmias, but it is not universally known that the treatment should be strictly controlled by frequent red-cell counts, to ensure that the patient's response is satisfactory. The introduction of innumerable synthetic drugs into medicine has given many invaluable remedies. Several of these, however, are so powerful that unless carefully controlled they may give rise to agranulocytosis (diminution of the granulocytes). For this reason, frequent white cell counts should be made.

Clotting Time

The clotting time of blood is of importance in control of two compounds recently introduced into medicine—vitamin K (including its analogues, acetomenaphthone and menaphthone) and dicoumarol. The former decreases the clotting time of blood and is useful in the prevention of neo-natal hæmorrhage and in reducing the risk of post-operative hæmorrhage in obstructive jaundice and related conditions. The latter increases clotting time, since it produces hypoprothrombinæmia, hence is used in treating thrombosis.

Quantitative chemical tests on blood are performed with two objects: (1) To control the blood level of potent drugs; and (2) to ascertain pathological variations in concentrations of natural blood constituents. The former tests are becoming of increasing importance, and are essential to treatment with chemotherapeutic drugs such as the sulphonamides (M.R.C. Memorandum, No. 10).

Variations in absorption and excretion of the sulphonamides render it impossible to assume that the required blood level of the drug will be reached even with standard dosage; therefore the concentration in the patient's blood should be ascertained chemically, at least once or twice during the first days of treatment. The usual method is Bratten and Marshall's (*"Journal of Biological Chemistry,"* 128, 537, 1939).

To ascertain the amount of free sulphonamide, blood is laked with either a saturated solution or a measured excess of distilled

er and after two minutes is treated with chloroacetic acid. After standing for five minutes the precipitated protein is filtered and an aliquot portion of filtrate is tested in exactly the same way as was done for urine in the previous article (*C. & D.*, August 12, p. 175).

For determination of total sulphonamide quantity of filtrate obtained as above is treated with hydrochloric acid on a boiling water-bath for one hour. After cooling and adjusting to volume, the filtrate is treated precisely as previously indicated.

When laboratory facilities are not available, a rapid but less accurate method, described by Fuller ("*Lancet*," 1942. I. 760), is proved useful. The technique is as follows: Blood is mixed with an equal quantity of precipitating fluid (*p*-toluene-sulphonic acid solution) on a glazed surface, the clear exudate is soaked up on a specially prepared test paper (impregnated with a buffered alcoholic solution of methylamine benzaldehyde). The color produced is compared, whilst wet, with standard papers stained with tartrazine dye corresponding to definite blood concentrations. If local anaesthesia is required in taking blood for these tests, anaesthetics containing the *p*-amino-benzoic acid group (procaine, amethocaine, etc.) must not be used, since this group gives the same color reaction as sulphonamides. Cocaine or Nupercaine, not containing the group, is permissible.

Determination of Penicillin Content

Whilst, as yet, the determination of penicillin in the blood is not a chemical procedure, it is of such supreme importance that the following brief summary is included (M.R.C. War Memorandum, No. 33). A serial dilution is made, on a sterile slide, from one drop of the patient's blood, to a normal serum as diluent and as control. To each drop and to the control a full loopful of a standardised culture of *Staphylococcus aureus* is added. The slides are covered with sterile coverslips, the edges sealed with soft paraffin. After twenty-four hours' incubation, undiluted patient's serum should show no colonies whatever, whilst those from the undiluted blood dilutions may show, either no colonies, or a diminished number of colonies, or the same number as the control.

For making the dilutions on a paraffined slide, and, after inoculating with staphylococci or haemolytic streptococci in blood, the dilutions in capillary tubes

or slide cells. Owing to the unstable nature of penicillin, the following precautions are necessary: (a) If a syringe is used to draw the blood, it should be free from alcohol, which decomposes penicillin; (b) penicillin is unstable in blood and rapidly decomposes at room temperature, hence the test should be carried out the same day, or failing that, the blood should be refrigerated.

Tests for Normal Blood Constituents

In health, the levels of many of the common blood constituents remain within remarkably constant limits. Thus any wide deviation from normal values may be of great importance in diagnosis and control of disease. All pharmacists will appreciate the significance of blood-sugar tests in the diagnosis of diabetes mellitus and its control by insulin therapy. There are three methods available for blood-sugar determination, those of Hagedorn and Jensen, MacLean, and Folin and Wu. All three methods depend on the reducing action of dextrose. The first two are iodometric determinations, similar to many used in pharmaceutical analysis, whilst the latter is colorimetric and requires the use of a colorimeter.

Calcium and phosphorus are important mineral constituents of the body, and their determination in blood is of value in treating rickets and infantile tetany by vitamin D and calcium therapy, and in treating parathyroid deficiency with parathormone. Calcium is determined by the usual chemical method, precipitation as oxalate and oxidation with permanganate. The determination is usually made on serum, which, for obvious reasons, must not be from oxalated blood. Inorganic phosphate determinations are usually made on plasma, which has been separated as soon as possible after withdrawal of the blood, in order to avoid formation of extra inorganic phosphate by enzymic hydrolysis of ester phosphorus present in the corpuscles. The method is colorimetric, depending on the formation of a blue colour when a phosphate is treated with molybdic acid, followed by hydroquinone and sodium sulphite. The main value of blood uric acid determinations is in treatment of gout, particularly with the new quinoline drugs such as cinchophen, when the course of treatment can be controlled according to the blood level.

CORRECTION.—The reference to the determination of nicotinic acid in Mr. Whittet's previous article (*C. & D.*, August 12, p. 176) should read "*Biochemical Journal*" (1939. 33. 2037), and not as stated.

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VOL. CXLII SEPTEMBER 9, 1944 NO. 3370

The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in this paper or described in its editorial columns should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export.

Design for Pharmacy

MR. LINSTEAD'S able and monumental address to the Cardiff Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society on the Government's White Paper on a National Health Service, and his personal views on the organisation of retail and institutional pharmacists into a pharmaceutical service within the scheme (C. & D., September 2, p. 251, and p. 280 in this issue), will doubtless, as was intended, form the basis of discussions and comment at branch meetings up and down the country. This review of the future of pharmacy should certainly be studied by members of the Society before they complete the N.H.S. questionnaires which are in circulation from a number of branches.

Pharmaceutical Negotiations

On the subject of the present position of pharmaceutical negotiations with the Ministry of Health, Mr. Linstead referred to the memorandum submitted jointly by the Pharmaceutical Society, the National Pharmaceutical Union, and the Standing Committee for Scotland (C. & D., July 17, 1943, p. 63), and said that it had been intended the memorandum should be discussed at this year's Branch Representa-

tives' meeting and at the Pharmaceutical Committees' conference, but, unfortunately, both these meetings had had to be cancelled. He went on to mention that other organisations representative of various interests "which might properly claim to be concerned in proposals to be put forward on behalf of pharmacy" were not included in the original committee responsible for the memorandum, but that "it might be anticipated that these would be invited to confer on the provisional proposals." Would it not, for a number of reasons, have been better to have formed a thoroughly representative joint committee at the outset? We have consistently pleaded that pharmacy should speak with one voice. All the time, sectional interests deal separately with the same subject the profession as a whole is bound to suffer. The result to date of excluding some interests has been that more than one pharmaceutical memorandum on N.H.S. has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and, so far as we are aware, there has not even been contact between the bodies concerned for the purpose of exchanging views. Mr. Linstead's hint of an invitation that may now be extended to these other pharmaceutical interests is a sound suggestion which should receive support in all quarters.

Control of N.H.S. Service

After pointing out the danger of pharmacy's being overwhelmed by bureaucracy and the difficulties of avoiding some limited control, with the possible further loss of powers by the Society, Mr. Linstead indicated that a solution might be found in using the Statutory Committee, the scope of whose functions would need to be increased, in conjunction with the Central Pharmacy Board. These two bodies, predominantly pharmaceutical in constitution, might, he thought, function satisfactorily as the instruments of control and direction. The method adopted to control pharmacists and organise the service they are to provide under N.H.S. is, in our opinion, secondary to the salient point that pharmacists and pharmacy should be governed substantially by a body that is predominantly pharmaceutical and not

bureaucratic, whether on a national or on a local level.

The slogan "Pharmacy for the Pharmacist" is an old cry, and in dealing with it Mr. Linstead offered the choice of various interpretations. In his opinion "the requirement that all dispensing should be done by a pharmacist was too stringent," and he went on to suggest the introduction of "a class of dispenser" was a question that should be examined, although his own conclusion was that the present method of "direct and personal" supervision by pharmacists would give the best result. The introduction of a class of dispenser would surely prove a retrograde move, and could hardly be regarded as being in the interest of public safety. We believe it would be sound policy to represent to the authorities that, on grounds of efficiency and economy, all dispensing should continue to be the responsibility of pharmacists, unqualified assistance being under their personal supervision.

Economics of Pharmacy

The question of securing adequate payment for pharmaceutical services to be rendered, and the facilities and equipment to be supplied under N.H.S., is one that calls for the fullest investigation and expert advice before it becomes the subject of negotiation with the Ministry. Mr. Linstead, quoting information supplied for the Pharmacy Undertakings Order, gave 1s. 2d. per prescription as a basis. The subject, however, demands a good deal more consideration, for it embraces, besides the value of the pharmacist's time and knowledge, the cost of shop space and the facilities and equipment he will be called upon to provide and maintain. The cost of living at its true level, increased taxation, and the necessity to keep open for dispensing at times when other classes of retail establishments are closed, are all items that increase costs. Remuneration of sub-postmasters, who provide postal facilities in their shop premises, is known to be entirely uneconomic, the authorities apparently contending that postal customers bring other business to the shop. Mr. Linstead gives a warning to pharmacists on this point.

Young Persons in Shops

THE fact that the Association of Pharmaceutical Employees is a subsection of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks may make it worth while to examine a declaration of policy set out by the Union in its official organ, the "Distributive Trades Journal." These trades, it is pointed out, have long been one of the greatest employers of labour, though it is also true that before the war there was "a growing disinclination to enter distributive employment." Two main causes of this reluctance were: (a) Wages and conditions, which compared unfavourably with those in commerce and industry generally, and (b) lack of security in the employment. Neither factor can be said to have operated to any extent in pharmacy, yet a falling-off in apprenticeships was experienced. It must be borne in mind, however, that wages figures must be compared, not simply with those in other employments, but with the costs of entry into a calling. In pharmacy, by reason of the expense of qualifying, the rewards, especially for those without hope of owning their own businesses, were becoming increasingly unattractive. On the question of security it is noteworthy that at the present time, when the future of pharmacists under the National Health Service proposals is very much in the balance, the feeling of insecurity among pharmacists is far more widespread than in the immediate pre-war years. Even though dispensing under the new scheme will probably be done mainly at existing pharmacies, pharmaceutical "employers" will in a sense themselves become employees of the Government. This fact no doubt accounts for a growing realisation that adequate salaries for qualified assistants are a *sine qua non* of increased remuneration for chemists' dispensing services to the nation.

Controlled Entry

To reverse the decline of new entrants so far as the ordinary distributive trades are concerned, the Union urges control so that only so many are absorbed as can be provided with continuous employment. Superficially the logic of the argument is

little obscure, but there are few who will avail at what may be called "controlled scarcity," in preference to a gradual drift of employment away from the retail because of poor conditions. The basis of control suggested is a fixing of the number of young persons employed in proportion to the total establishment. The effect would be largely to remove the "blind alley" aspect of many behind-the-counter occupations, and in this connexion the war has shown many retailers that a staff composed of persons of mixed ages is often to be preferred to an all-young personnel, which too often resulted from pre-war cheap labour policies. This is a lesson, of course, which chemists had no need to learn, because it has been common experience among them for generations that in matters of health customers usually gravitate to the most experienced assistant.

Wider Range of Salary Scales

Coupled with "rationing" of new-comers, the Union urges a greater recognition of "extra duties" by a wider range of salary scales recognised by the Joint Industrial Councils, and opportunities for promotion up to the highest levels. Adult rates would be reached at twenty-one, and no distinction would be made solely on grounds of sex.

The other portions of the Memorandum are concerned with vocational guidance, apprenticeships and technical education. Pharmacy is not directly affected by the proposal that Juvenile Employment bureaux should be empowered to refuse young labour for definitely blind-alley occupations, but the suggestion that apprenticeships under agreement should be registered with the Joint Industrial Councils might, if extended to apply to pharmacy, introduce dualism of registration that could cause complications and friction.

The Union's proposals, if put into operation, may result in considerable improvement in conditions throughout retail trade generally, but their implementation is dependent, first on the reaction of the public at large, who would at the last resort be those who would pay the extra cost, and, secondly, on their being enforced equally on all employers. Uniform conditions, in other words, are the first essential of security in any industry.

Suggested Treatment for Boils

MANY causes of furunculosis (boils) have been suggested in the past, and an even greater number of therapeutic measures have been tried. Hitherto, none has proved uniformly successful, but what is described as a simple and efficient method of treatment is outlined by Price in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" (April 22, p. 1189). The treatment is based on the belief that the prime cause of boils is contamination of the resident flora of the skin with the boil-producing bacteria. As a corollary, their spread is by discharges, sweat, bathing and friction, each of which results in distributing pathogenic bacteria over the skin surface. Attempts to eradicate the offending organisms by the use of strong disinfectants such as iodine have proved unsuccessful, but the author found that healthy skin could be thoroughly "degermed" by means of a 70 per cent. solution of ethyl alcohol, and he claims that continuous application of the alcohol with gentle gauze friction for twenty minutes completely sterilises the surface of normal skin. The method does not damage healthy skin even after long contact, although vigorous massage should be avoided, especially if directed against the normal inclination of hair shafts, as being liable to force live bacteria into the hair follicles. Following application of the alcohol, the skin may feel dry or may itch, and patients have to be cautioned not to rub or scratch, zinc stearate or sterile talc being used to lessen any irritation. The treatment is not suitable for use on open wounds, nor for disinfecting draining sinuses or hair-follicles deeply contaminated with a boil-producing organism. For this reason, the best time to adopt the measure recommended is during the interval between the healing of one boil and the onset of the next. Many patients are stated to have been given the treatment during the past ten years and, so far as records have been kept, there has been no recurrence of boils in patients discharged as cleared. In the present state of the spirit regulations there is little prospect of the treatment being put to the test extensively in this country, but its simplicity will no doubt cause it to be given favourable consideration when spirit becomes more plentiful.

EMPIRE AND FOREIGN NEWS

Surplus Medical Supplies.—The Procurement Division of the U.S. Treasury Department is stated to have more than \$100 millions' worth of medical supplies already available for disposal, including about \$25 millions' worth of drugs.

Red Cross Fund Quota Exceeded.—The cosmetics section of the U.S. 1944 Red Cross War Fund has acknowledged the receipt of \$86,836 from the cosmetics industry in the United States; the quota set for the industry was \$75,000.

Shares in Subsidiaries to be Surrendered.—The United States Alien Property Custodian has demanded the surrender by the Standard Oil Co., New Jersey, of its holding of 20 per cent. of the shares in Standard Catalytic Co.; 50 per cent. in Jasco, Inc., and 25 per cent. in Hydrocarbon Synthesis Corporation. The securities were formerly owned by I. G. Farbenindustrie, the three companies being organised to operate, in the United States, certain arrangements for the pooling of patents by the Standard Oil Co. and I. G. Farbenindustrie. The Custodian has also called for the surrender to the Government of 675 patents and 100 applications for patents, now held by the three concerns; the processes were made available previously, but will henceforth be administered permanently by the U.S. Government.

Drug Control in India.—The "Gazette of India" (November 11, 1943) reproduces a Drugs Control Order, 1943, under which no person is permitted to carry on the business of manufacturer, importer, wholesaler or retailer except under licence. Under the Order it becomes an offence to sell drugs and pharmaceutical products at a price higher than the controlled "ceiling" price or to refuse without reasonable cause to sell any drug in stock. Part I of Schedule A includes common preparations containing drugs for which uniform maximum prices have been fixed; Part II a list of drugs for which separate prices have been fixed, listed under the names of the manufacturers. Basic pharmaceutical chemicals are shown in Part III. A copy of the Order may be seen by persons interested at the Department of Overseas Trade (Tariff Section), Hawkins House, Dolphin Square, London, S.W.1.

Alcohol from Potatoes.—The alcohol and solvents section of the Chemicals Division of the United States War Production Board announced recently that four U.S. distilling

companies had been directed to use up to nineteen carloads each of low-grade dried potatoes in the production of industrial alcohol. The potatoes are part of the 1943 crop surplus and have been dried in beet-sugar plants during their off-season. Simultaneously Californian wine plants which have been producing industrial alcohol from Hawaiian molasses surpluses since January 1943, have been notified that their supplier has been ordered to terminate molasses deliveries to them from April 1. Officials said they were hopeful that experiments in grain hydrolysis might soon develop new sources of raw material for the producers who have been using Hawaiian molasses, more than 20,000,000 gall. of which has been utilised. Distilleries that have been directed to experiment with dried potato fragments will be allowed sufficient quantities to establish operating techniques which will not result in any decline in alcohol production.

German Patents in South Africa.—In the South African House of Assembly, a member stated recently that a German concern had been able to get the patents for certain drugs transferred to its representatives in South Africa. The effect would be to prevent the public in the Dominion from receiving the drugs from any other maker or under any other patent, and even to prevent people from getting medicines covered by the patents—medicines which could now only be obtained from America and Britain. Two of the people concerned were suspect by the American Government, it was alleged, and yet permits had been facilitated for them to import goods from America. In other countries local makers could be given a compulsory order to manufacture essential drugs. In the Union, however, the power to grant this order had been taken away by an emergency regulation. Mr. J. Christie, M.P., a chemist and druggist, said the amended emergency regulation which made such action possible had placed the German firm in a stronger position than any of its competitors in South Africa. Preparations corresponding to its products had been imported from other countries and distributed on its terms (a commission of 5 per cent. on all imported preparations corresponding to its own, and a guarantee that prices would not be lower than those charged by the German firm). The amendment to the emergency regulations, it was urged, should be rescinded. The Minister of Finance said he would go into the matter.

SOVIET MEDICINAL HERB RESOURCES

"FARMATSIA," a Russian journal of pharmacy, copies of which have recently been received (1943, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4), devotes considerable space to articles dealing with the natural botanical resources of the U.S.S.R., and their value in stocking the depleted domestic medicine chest. Translations of extracts from the journals are given below.

Raw Material Sources

The roots of *Polemonium caeruleum* (Jacob's ladder) have been found suitable to replace senega, which was formerly imported. The drug is reported to have been used in Siberia in dysentery and for snake-bite, the latter use being common in American folk-medicine. In Russian folk-medicine, the resemblance between *P. caeruleum* and valerian has resulted in the former plant being used in insomnia, anxiety states, and epilepsy. The dosage of *P. caeruleum* is the same as that for senega. Apricot "gum-resin" is replacing gum arabic in emulsions. Its physico-chemical and pharmacodynamic properties are closely similar to those of gum arabic, while its low cost is a great advantage.

Algae from lakes, particularly in the Chelyabinsk region, supply the material for cotton wool and paper and, from the water, laxative salts are obtained. A 12.5 per cent. emulsion of pine tar in 1 per cent. solution of caustic soda is recommended as a substitute for phenol. Silver birch preparations have been extensively used in folk-medicine as diuretics and diaphoretics. Decocti gemmarum betulae, 15:100, three tablespoonfuls, t.d.s., has a mild laxative action; tr. betulae, 1:5 in 90 per cent. alcohol for local application gives good results in slowly draining granulations, bedsores, suppurating irritations, excoriations and erosions of the skin. Sapo picis and aqua picis are other birch tar preparations. Plantain seeds, semen psyllii of *Plantago psyllium* may be used in chronic constipation, and rhubarb in chronic atonic constipation.

Turf Powder for Wounds

Turf, in the lower strata, contains no putrefying and pathogenic microbes; it even prevents and curtails putrefaction. Turf powder is, for this reason, a suitable application to wounds. Turf mud poultices applied to the surfaces or mucous membranes have a healing action. They are particularly effective in ulcers of the legs.

Tampons are used in vaginitis and erosions of the cervix. Other indications—for oral administration—are: meteorism, dyspepsia, enteritis, enterocolitis, colitis with diarrhoea, and dysentery. The dose is one teaspoonful of turf powder in three teaspoonfuls of hot water.

Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) was used by the medical men of ancient Greece and Rome and was considered a sure remedy for epilepsy, nervous diseases, colics and hæmorrhage. It has now been found that the extract of the sap, even in small doses, lowers blood pressure by inhibiting the vasomotor centres of the medulla and spinal cord without a preliminary rise. It has a slightly vasodilator action on the isolated ear, liver and kidney, and a stimulating action on the isolated heart, with increased amplitude of the systole and a slowing of the rhythm. The rate of respiration is decreased without a preliminary increase, due to inhibition of the respiratory centre. Indication: hypertonia.

Natural Drug Sources

The everlasting flower, *Helichrusum arenarium* (*Gnaphalium arenarium*), N.O. *Compositæ*, as a decoction, including the stem, is, according to folk-medicine, beneficial in jaundice and pain in the region of the liver. Tests have now been made with the drug in cholecystitis-cholangitis; one teaspoonful of a 4 per cent. extract was dissolved in a glass of water. Half-a-glass was given three times a day before meals for ten to fifteen days, and improvement was noted in three to four days. Vitamins are being obtained from fresh sources among plentiful native plants. Cowslip infusion was formerly given in lung diseases, migraine and vertigo. The dry leaves have been found to contain 5.9 mgm. per cent. ascorbic acid, and the fresh leaves, at the end of June, about 784.9 mgm. per cent. The leaves also contain as much carotene as young nettles. The toxic effect of saponinoglycoside is not apparent. Villagers put the leaves into "borshch" (beetroot soup). Vitamin C is also abundant in the leaves of the silver birch. Even the tundra (a vast wasteland of northern Russia) has been searched. The berry of the shrub *Empetrum nigrum* yielded 814 mgm. per cent. ascorbic acid; the leaves 2,640 mgm. per cent.; the great bilberry 563 mgm. per cent.; and the leaves of woodsorrel, 864 mgm. per cent. A luminiscent method of testing medicinal plants is described.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS TO CARDIFF BRANCH

(Concluded from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, September 2, p. 253)

PHARMACISTS employed full-time in institutions would, of course, receive salaries. Remuneration of the chemist who had his own business should ensure that a pharmacist, himself, or by employing another, was devoting the whole of his time to the pharmaceutical work of the establishment. The new terms must make the supply of medicines the factor upon which the remuneration was calculated. An analysis of information furnished for the Pharmacy Undertakings Order from 500 pharmacies, showed that 593 pharmacists, with the aid of 229 dispensers, dispensed 4,694,992 prescriptions in 1941. The dispensing fee for every 8,000 prescriptions must therefore pay for the salary of one pharmacist and 0.37 dispensers, before any contribution was made to overheads or profit. Put the salary of the pharmacist at £8 per week and that of the dispenser at £4 per week. The annual salary bill would then be £471 6s. 8d. or 1s. 2d. for each prescription. This was not advanced as a specific fee, for it was based on a number of suppositions which were susceptible of argument (for example, that 8,000 scripts per annum was a reasonable number for a pharmacist and a part-time dispenser). Nor did it make any provision for profit. But it did suggest, on the most practical basis of experience, that a dispensing fee of between 1s. and 1s. 6d. represented the salary cost of dispensing a prescription. There was, in addition, ingredient cost, which could properly be regarded as a transaction bearing a normal commercial profit. It must also be remembered that "pink string and sealing wax" played their part in the cure—like the bedside manner, top hat and tail coat of the consultant or the becoming uniform of the nurse. There must be elasticity enough in the payment to provide for extras which added to the effectiveness of treatment by increasing the patient's confidence in the medicine.

Basis of Remuneration

Suggestions for increased remuneration would be countered by the old argument that the rest of the business could carry the State dispensing on its back. This "other business" was broadly (1) proprietary medicines (made by the proprietor or nationally sold); (2) over-the-counter sales of drugs and medicines; (3) non-State prescriptions. Substantial business would undoubtedly remain in the ordinary domes-

tic remedies, but "private" dispensing would rapidly disappear. The remaining pharmaceutical business would then be mainly proprietaries. Was the Ministry of Health seriously to advocate that the business in such medicines should carry the State dispensing on its shoulders? It was not consistent with the provision of a great national comprehensive health service that every hoarding and newspaper should encourage the public to avoid that service, and diagnose their own troubles and select their own medicines. The Government wanted the new scheme to be comprehensive. So long as vast sums were spent by the public outside the scheme, it could not be comprehensive. The Ministry of Health had for too long hesitated to tackle the thorny problem of the proprietary medicine. It could not much longer afford to ignore it, and it certainly could not, however covertly, share in its profits by clipping the remuneration of the pharmacist. The authorities had themselves one great remedy at hand to check the tendency to go outside the scheme. They could at least see that the medicines provided under the scheme competed in elegance as well as in efficacy with what was offered elsewhere. Taste, appearance and palatability were the criteria applied by most patients. If the National Health Pharmacopoeia embarked on a policy of "essentials only," leaving out the sugar and flavours from a mistaken sense of economy, it would give a new lease of life to the proprietary medicine and undermine some of the effectiveness of the national scheme.

Administration

While the organisation for which the Insurance Committees were at present responsible must pass under the control of the local authorities, means must be found for preserving the professional freedom of doctors and chemists. The advantage to a chemist of being in direct contractual relationship with the local authority was that the authority thereby assumed some direct responsibility for his economic stability. That was about the only advantage. It was offset by the certainty that once the chemist's shop passed under the control of the local authority, it would tend in a short period to be subjected to a series of rules, regulations, restrictions and inspections such as would effectively kill all professional life.

and spontaneity. That was why the pharmaceutical bodies had put forward proposals for a pharmaceutical organisation parallel to that proposed for the doctors, having local liaison at the county and borough council levels and at the area levels, but with the chain of responsibility running direct through a central pharmaceutical body to the Minister of Health. Broadly speaking, the committees proposed at the county and borough council levels would correspond closely with the present Pharmaceutical Committees, both in personnel and in functions. They would consist chiefly of retail pharmacists chosen by the contractors, but some hospital pharmacists would have to be included, since questions connected with clinics and health centres would be involved. Such an expert pharmaceutical liaison committee in contact with a local authority on matters concerning the health services might easily develop into a valuable means of presenting the pharmaceutical point of view on the numerous problems that arose in local government work. At the "area" level, where the hospital organisation was mainly to be considered, more representatives of hospital pharmacy would be needed. An important function of the area committees would be to advise upon standards of staffing, equipment, and accommodation for the institutions in their area.

Functions of Pharmacy Board

The Central Pharmacy Board was the central feature of the new scheme. In the paper issued by the Joint Committee its functions are set out as being:—

(a) Advising the Minister on the progress and development of the pharmaceutical service;

(b) Being responsible to the Minister for the adequacy and efficiency of the pharmaceutical service;

(c) Advising the Minister on terms and conditions of service;

(d) Acting as the "employer" in agreements with pharmaceutical participants in the service;

(e) Advising on the new "Medical Benefit Regulations" so far as they affect the pharmaceutical service;

(f) Determining, subject to appeal to the Minister, the conditions for the addition or deletion of units of the pharmaceutical service;

(g) Acting as an appeal body from decisions of Area Pharmacy Boards and Pharmaceutical Service Committees.

No profession could hope to retain its

self-respect, its professional freedom and concern for its own development unless it was guided and governed by its own people. The two chief problems were: (1) the inclusion of some lay members, and (2) the absence of an elective element. Experience had demonstrated how valuable experienced non-pharmaceutical opinion can be. Some representation of one or more departments on a body such as this was useful and proper. Provided that the body was predominantly pharmaceutical in composition, the addition of a lay element was distinctly advantageous. If the Board was to carry real authority and to be able to make really effective use of its position as between Minister and practitioners, it must be appointed by the Minister and yet must be so composed that it had the confidence of pharmacy. The method proposed, of consultation, would mean that representative bodies would be sounded unofficially as to who should be appointed, but that the act of appointment should be that of the Minister. Mr. Linstead said he considered that a Pharmacy Board might be regarded as appropriately constituted if the members were appointed by the Minister, but:—

(1) The large majority of its members were pharmacists;

(2) A majority of the pharmacists were themselves contractors under the scheme;

(3) The pharmacist members were fully representative of the different sections of pharmacy;

(4) The appointment of the pharmacists was made "in consultation with the profession."

Protective Powers

The proposed function of the Board of "determining, subject to appeal to the Minister, the conditions for the addition or deletion of units of the pharmaceutical service" involved that it would be necessary to take power to prevent the provision of adequate facilities being prejudiced by adventitious events. If, for example, full facilities had been provided in a town by the pharmacists there, and they had invested money in accommodation and staff and equipment so that all concerned with the service were well satisfied, what justification was there for a local authority on its own motion to open one or more public dispensaries? Or should a commercial organisation decide to open a hundred pharmacies, was that something authority could ignore?

MEDICAL ABSTRACTS

Riboflavin Deficiency Shown in Eyes.—Ferguson ("Lancet," April 1, p. 431) examined patients showing abnormalities in the distribution of capillaries around the eyes, with a view to deciding whether such symptoms gave any useful indication of the existence of riboflavin deficiency. In 7.8 per cent. of 422 persons attending at hospitals or elsewhere for treatment, abnormal corneal vascularisation of a clinically recognisable type was found. The effect of riboflavin treatment was studied in a number of patients, and in thirteen cases the result was a cessation of the abnormal corneal circulation. The author makes no claim that riboflavin deficiency was the sole cause of the condition described.

Acridines Adsorbed by Gauze.—Previous work by other investigators which suggested that the adsorption by absorbent dressings of the acridine group was a reversible reaction, not inhibiting their effectiveness in killing streptococci, is confirmed in a recent contribution by Albert and Gledhill ("Lancet," June 10, p. 759). These workers examined the interaction of acridines, crystal violet, and sodium chloride with absorbent gauze under various conditions and found that the degree of adsorption varied considerably, 5-aminoacridine being the least adsorbed. Water and serum caused a speedy reversal of the adsorption process, indicating that dressings impregnated with any of the substances tested could be regarded as vehicles capable of supplying a significant proportion of the substances to wounds with which they were in contact. When it becomes desirable, however, to expose a wound to the fullest concentration of a medicament from the moment of application, the authors recommend that non-absorbent dressings should still be resorted to.

A Modified Lassar's Paste.—Lassar's paste is an almost indispensable preparation in dermatology, but its absorbing qualities leave much to be desired. Lassar believed that the paste would take up serous exudates by capillary action of the solid constituents, but his supposition was proved wrong. In an attempt to improve the absorbing qualities every ingredient of the original formula, with the exception of zinc oxide, has been replaced at one time or another, but with little success. Strakosch, in the "Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association" (April, p. 96) now reports that, if a suitable emulsifier is added,

the product takes up the serous exudates. In his experiments he used water-free ingredients and added desiccated cobalt chloride as an indicator. The pastes of various formulas were applied to the forearm of a test subject, and colour comparisons were made after four hours. Another point demonstrated was that starch-containing pastes have better absorbing properties than preparations containing talc which had been suggested by several investigators. He suggests the following as a satisfactory formula for Lassar's zinc paste (plain): zinc oxide, 7.5, starch, 7.5, cetyl alcohol, 1.5, white soft paraffin, 15.

Bromide Intoxication.—A report of two cases of bromide intoxication from the prolonged use of headache powders is given by Cracke and Platt in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" (May 13, p. 176). A statement by the Federal Trade Commission is quoted to the effect that prevalence of the condition is increasing, as a result of self-medication resorted to, in order to sooth their nerves, by a people at war. The authors consider that many physicians still fail to recognise the condition, the symptoms of which are enumerated as being partial delirium, mental retardation, slow speech, ataxia, tremors of the hands, and disturbances of attention and memory, paranoid delusion being not infrequent. Where doubt exists, blood bromide may be estimated as a confirmatory test. The powders in the two cases referred to were stated to contain potassium bromide gr. $7\frac{1}{2}$, acetanilide gr. $2\frac{1}{2}$, aspirin and caffeine citrate (quantities not stated and apparently not estimated). Both cases were characterised by pronounced clinical cyanosis, but the absence of demonstrable blood methæmoglobin or sulphæmoglobin by spectroscopic methods rendered it improbable that the cyanosis was due to the acetanilide, although the authors admit that failure to find these substances might have been caused by faulty technique in the spectroscopic examination. No comment is made on the formula of the powders.

"C. & D." Quiz No. 36.—The answers to the questions on p. 262 are: 1. The dried seed of *Peganum Harmala*. 2. Silvanus Bevan, of Plough Court. 3. Birch tar oil, made by the destructive distillation of *Betula alba*. 4. Oil of spike lavender. 5. Louis Jacques Thenard. 6. *Tylophora asthmatica*. 7. Diminutive of the Spanish *vagina*, a pod. 8. Richard Hothart Pigeon. 9. Takamine, in 1901. 10. Hydrochloric.

TRADE REPORT

ot quotations for pharmaceutical chemicals, crude drugs and essential oils represent the prices for wholesale quantities of standard quality. C.i.f. quotations do not include marine war risk insurance and other abnormal charges payable in the present emergency

28 Essex Street, W.C.2, September 6

The cheerful news from the Continent has not been without a tonic effect on the London drug and chemical markets, but the immediate increase in business that has resulted from the liberation of the countries concerned can only be slight. At the end of the last war, stocks of crude drugs in this country were plentiful; a considerable demand arose from continental sources, causing a boom in trade, followed by a slump. Quite different conditions obtain today. Stocks of many drugs are short almost to disappearing point, and what is left is strictly controlled. In these circumstances, it is difficult to see how the inevitable demand can be met, except by a steady building-up of supplies, coupled with a gradual relaxation of controls. It should be remembered, in this connexion, that a considerable proportion of the more commonly used crude drugs, e.g., agar, camphor, menthol, barb, etc., have their origins in the Far East so that the conclusion of the European war will provide little immediate relief from supply difficulties.

The week has seen little change in PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMICALS, this section of the markets being quite steady. Most of the usual materials are wanted for home consumption and this demand is generally being well met. No changes in prices have been notified.

Crude Drugs

A quiet but steady home consuming trade in CRUDE DRUGS is reported, with prices generally maintained at about the levels recently quoted. The market is still without supplies of CAPE ALOES, and the PAPAIA variety continues scarce. BALSAMS without quotable change on the week. CINCHONIN is difficult to find, but prices of the available supplies are no higher. GINSENG is scarce on spot, with the shipment situation firm. There are no offers of CATTIA GROSSA or MINAS IPECACUANHA at present. MENTHOL continues in good request, but supplies are exceedingly difficult to locate. RHUBARB is firm, with further more inquiry received. Imported gums show no alteration. Some business is reported in SENNA. TRAGACANTH is firm.

Essential Oils

Only a few essential oils are now being offered in the "free" market. Prices are generally high, and stocks meagre. No further changes have been announced for "controlled" oils. Two alterations in price appear in the list of SYNTHETICS and ISOLATES, both being reductions. The Ministry of Food announces that there will be no change in the existing prices of unrefined oils and fats and technical animal fats allocated to primary wholesalers and large trade users during the four weeks ending September 30.

Exchange Rates on London

During August the foreign exchange rates on London remained steady. Bank of England fixed rates include: New York, 4.03 dollars; Montreal, 4.45 dollars; Dutch West Indies, 7.60 florins; Lisbon, 100 escudos; Stockholm, 16.90 kroner. The Spanish rate is steady at 44 pesetas, and the Chinese National dollar is at 33½d.

Pharmaceutical Chemicals

ASPIRIN.—Demand continues fair, with prices unchanged. Currently quoted rates per lb., in quantities of 28 lb.—1 cwt., are as follows (containers in brackets): 4s. (1-lb.); 3s. 10½d. (4-lb.); 3s. 9½d. (7-lb.); 3s. 9d. (14-lb.); 3s. 8½d. (28-lb.).

ATROPINE.—Makers' quotations are steady at the following rates per oz.: ALKALOID, B.P.—1 oz., 35s.; 4 oz., 34s. 6d.; 25 oz., 34s. SULPHATE, B.P.—1 oz., 28s.; 4 oz., 27s. 6d.; 25 oz., 27s. METHYL BROMIDE and METHYL NITRATE, 1 oz., 65s.

BORIC ACID.—B.P. quality is quoted by makers as follows: Granulated, £70 per ton; crystal, £71; powder, £72. Packed in one-cwt. bags, delivered carriage paid in Great Britain in one-ton lots and upwards. Commercial grades, £8 per ton less.

BRUCINE.—Current rates per oz. are as follows: ALKALOID.—Under 25 oz., 1s. 4½d.; 25 oz. and under 100 oz., 1s. 4d.; 100 oz. and under 500 oz., 1s. 3½d. NITRATE AND SULPHATE.—Under 25 oz., 1s. 3½d.; 25 oz. and under 100 oz., 1s. 3d.; 100 oz. and under 500 oz., 1s. 2½d.

CODEINE.—Makers' prices per oz. are as follows: ALKALOID.—½ oz., 48s. 3d.; 1 oz., 45s. 9d.; 2 oz., 44s. 3d.; 3 oz., 43s. 6d.; 4 oz., 43s. 3d. HYDROCHLORIDE.—½ oz., 42s.; 1 oz., 39s. 6d.; 2 oz., 38s.; 3 oz., 37s. 3d.; 4 oz., 37s. PHOSPHATE.—½ oz., 37s. 9d.; 1 oz., 35s. 3d.; 2 oz., 33s. 9d.; 3 oz., 33s.; 4 oz., 32s. 9d.

DEXTROSE.—Current prices, per lb., in lots of 28 lb.—1 cwt., are as follows (containers in brackets): rs. 2½d. (1-lb.); rs. 1½d. (2-lb.); rs. 0½d. (4-lb.); 11½d. (7-lb.); 11½d. (14-lb.); 10½d. (28-lb.).

DIAMORPHINE.—Current rates per oz. for small quantities are as follows: ALKALOID.—½ oz., 54s.; 1 oz., 51s. 6d.; 2 oz., 50s.; 3 oz., 49s. 3d.; 4 oz., 49s. HYDROCHLORIDE.—½ oz., 49s.; 1 oz., 46s. 6d.; 2 oz., 45s.; 3 oz., 44s. 3d.; 4 oz., 44s.

ETHYLMORPHINE.—Quotations per oz. in small quantities remain as follows: ALKALOID.—½ oz., 51s.; 1 oz., 48s. 6d.; 2 oz., 47s.; 3 oz., 46s. 3d.; 4 oz., 46s. HYDROCHLORIDE.—½ oz., 43s.; 1 oz., 40s. 6d.; 2 oz., 39s.; 3 oz., 38s. 3d.; 4 oz., 38s.

HOMATROPINE.—Makers' prices per oz. are as follows (prices per gram in brackets): ALKALOID, 1 oz., 97s. 6d.; 4 oz., 92s. 6d.; 16 oz., 87s. 6d. (6s.). HYDROCHLORIDE, HYDROBROMIDE AND SULPHATE, 1 oz., 75s.; 4 oz., 90s.; 16 oz., 65s. (3s. 2d.).

IODINE PREPARATIONS.—Prices per lb. for the home market are as follows: POTASSIUM IODIDE, B.P.—112 lb., 9s.; 28 lb., 9s. 6d.; 14 lb., 10s.; 7 lb., 11s. 6d.; 4 lb., 12s.; smaller quantities, 12s. 6d. SODIUM IODIDE, B.P.—28 lb., 9s. 11d.; 14 lb., 10s. 5d.; 7 lb., 12s. 2d.; 4 lb., 12s. 10d.; smaller quantities, 13s. 8d. IODOFORM, B.P.—28 lb., 12s. 10d.; 14 lb., 13s. 4d.; 7 lb., 15s. 6d.; 4 lb., 16s. 4d.; smaller quantities, 17s. 2d. IODOFORM CRYSTALS.—2s. per lb. above powder prices. IODINE RESUBLIMED, B.P.—112 lb., 10s. 4d.; 28 lb., 10s. 10d.; 14 lb., 11s. 4d.; 7 lb., 13s. 1d.; 4 lb., 13s. 9d.; smaller quantities, 14s. 6d.

MANDELATES.—Makers' quotations are unchanged. SODIUM AND CALCIUM.—4 oz., 8 oz., and 1 lb., 22s. per lb.; 4 lb., 20s. 3d.; 7 lb., 18s. 6d.; 14 lb. (in 7-lb. packages), 16s. 9d.; 28 lb. (in 7-lb. packages), 15s. per lb., net. AMMONIUM (50 per cent. solution)—4 oz., 8 oz., and 1 lb., 11s. 9d. per lb.; 4 lb., 10s. 9½d.; 7 lb., 9s. 10d.; 14 lb. (in 7-lb. packages), 8s. 11½d.; 28 lb. (in 7-lb. packages), 7s. 11d. per lb. net. Packages extra and returnable.

MAGNESIUM CARBONATE, LIGHT.—Makers' home market prices per lb., in quantities of 28 lb.—1 cwt., are as follows (containers in brackets): rs. 3½d. (1-lb.); rs. 2d. (4-lb.); rs. 1d. (7-lb.); rs. 0½d. (14-lb.); rs. (28-lb.). Prices net one month.

Crude Drugs

AGAR.—Price is fixed under the Control of Agar (No. 1) Order, 1943, at 30s. per lb.

ALOES.—Still no offers of Cape; Curaçao, scarce on spot at 500s. per cwt.

ARECA NUTS.—Dealers can offer wormy Ceylon at 105s. per cwt., ex store.

BALSAMS.—Peru is steady on spot at 7s. 9d. per lb., and Canada at 9s. 9d. to 10s.; Tolu and Copaiba are unobtainable,

BELLADONNA.—Indian leaf is quoted 5s. 3d. per lb., and root testing 0.36 per cent. alkaloids at 330s. per cwt.

BENZOIN.—Request continues good but supplies are difficult to locate. Sumatra, available, would be worth £40 per cwt., and Siam almond block, £45.

CAMPHOR.—Chinese crude, in limited competition to approved buyers only, may be had at 10 per lb., and similar quantities of B.P. at 11s. 6d.

CARDAMOMS.—Practically no call for the article, but prices are steady. Aleppy green spot, 5s. 6d. per lb.; Aleppy seed, 6s. 6d. split seed, 5s. 6d.

CHAULMOOGRA.—Hydnocarpus, spot, rs. 6 per lb., in tins in cases.

CHILLIES.—Mombasa, the only variety offered, quoted on spot at 110s. per cwt.

CLOVES.—Spot sellers of Zanzibar at rs. 4½ per lb. No other varieties are offered.

COCOA BUTTER.—Price is fixed at rs. 5½d. per lb., ex factory or warehouse, except for sale made under Ministry of Food licence.

COCONUT (DESICCATED).—No change in the controlled price of 49s. per cwt.

COLOCYNTH.—Fair white pulp is quoted 2s. 10½d. to 3s. per lb. on spot.

DIGITALIS LEAVES.—Portuguese leaves steady at 140s. per cwt.; English-grown leaves 6d. per lb.

DRAGON'S BLOOD.—Dull Zanzibar drop continues nominal at £25 per cwt.

ERGOT.—Spot supplies are scarce, with the price at 6s. 6d. per lb., shipment, firm at 6 c.i.f.

GUM ACACIA.—Kordofan cleaned sorts firm on spot at 80s. per cwt.; bleached, shipment, 140s. per cwt., c.i.f.; spot, 185s. Tall cleaned, 50s. per cwt., landed.

HENBANE.—Quotations for Indian leaf range from 250s. to 275s. per cwt., according to holder; some low-testing material may be had at rs. per lb. Russian leaf is quoted at 35 per cwt.

JABORANDI.—In small compass on spot. Price would be about 52s. 6d. per cwt.

KAMALA.—Material with 6 per cent. ash quoted at 2s. per lb.

LIQUORICE ROOT.—Russian root is available for pharmaceutical use at 85s. per cwt.; single peeled Syrian, in small supply, at 110s. per cwt. subject to D.M.S. approval.

MENTHOL.—In continued demand, but supplies are difficult to locate.

MERCURY.—Official quotations range from £68 10s. to £69 15s. per flask, according to conditions and quality, with higher prices for smaller lots and re-distilled grades.

MYRRH.—Fair-quality Aden sorts are quoted at £20 per cwt.

NUTMEGS.—West Indian, wormy and broken spot, rs. 5d. per lb.; sound unassorted, rs. 7½

Essential and Expressed Oils

NUX VOMICA.—Cochin is quoted on spot at 6d. per cwt.; shipment, 35s., c.i.f.; Cocan-seed, shipment, 32s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f.

PEPPER.—Maximum prices of whole pepper, picked over or cleaned, on sale to processors, 4d. per lb. for white and 1s. per lb. for black, in duty paid.

PIGMENTO.—Spot sellers at 1s. 4d. per lb.; current prices are not quoted.

PUASSIA.—Steady on spot at 37s. 6d. to 100 per cwt., according to quantity.

QUILLAIA BARK.—Crushed or cut, spot, 90s. per cwt.; natural, 75s.; shipment, 65s., c.i.f.

RUBARB.—Rather more demand; prices fully maintained. Rough-round and flat dried, both quoted at 12s. per lb. Shensi angular shapes, 14s. per lb.

SEEDS.—Some inquiry, but little business doing. **CORIANDER.**—Indian, 75s. per cwt. **FIN.**—Maltese, spot, 105s.; Indian, 100s. **L.**—105s., ex wharf. **FENNEL.**—Offered at 100s. **FENUGREEK.**—May be had at 80s. **MUSC.**—Controlled prices are unchanged.

SENNA.—Alexandrian medium pods are at 100s. per lb.; Tinnevely, manufacturing grade, to 6½d.; hand-picked, 8½d. to 1s.; broken Alexandrian leaves, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.; siftings, 1s. 2d.; Tinnevely, No. 1, 9d. to 10½d.; No. 2, to 7½d.; No. 3, 5½d. to 6d.

SQUILL.—Indian bulb may be had at the changed price of 60s. per cwt., and Portuguese at 75s.

STRAMONIUM LEAVES.—East Indian leaves quoted at from 80s. to 85s. per cwt.

TROPHANTHUS SEED.—100 per cent. Kombé quoted at 7s. to 7s. 6d. per lb., according to quantity.

TRAGACANTH.—Prices of the principal Indian grades are as follows: No. 1, white, 100s. per cwt.; No. 2, white, £115; No. 3, white, £100; No. 4, white, £85; pale leaf, £60; green leaf, £50; dark amber, £40; brown leaf, £30; red-and-brown leaf, £25; red leaf, £20; hoggy, £12 to £15.

TRIMERIC.—Madras finger, sound-quality, 57s. 6d. per cwt.

VALERIAN ROOT.—Indian root is quoted on spot at 100s. per cwt.

WAXES.—Bees'.—Supplies may be obtained through members of the Association of Merchant Distributors of Beeswax; official prices are as follows: Crude, 260s. to 290s. per cwt.; refined, 315s. to 355s.; bleached, 340s. to 370s.; Calcutta, crude, 250s. to 270s.; Calcutta, bleached, 325s. to 335s. **CARNAUBA.**—Light grey, 440s. to 450s. per cwt., ex store, in minimum one-bag lots; shipment, 390s., c.i.f.; dark grey, 520s. to 530s. per cwt., ex store, nominal shipment, 475s., c.i.f.; medium yellow, 440s., nominal; chalky grey, 430s. to 440s., nominal; shipment, 377s. 6d., c.i.f. (c.i.f. prices include ½ per cent. W.R.I.). **CANDELLILA.**—1 ton, 220s. per cwt.; 1-5 tons, 217s. 6d.; 5 tons and over, 215s., ex store. **OURICURI.**—1 ton, 290s. to 320s. per cwt., as to quality; shipment, 285s., c.i.f.

ANISE (STAR).—Prices continue nominal at 160s. per lb., with no change in the supply position.

BAY.—If available, price would be in the region of 12s. per lb.

CASTOR.—Official quotation for firsts is £92 per ton, and that for seconds, £90, both naked ex works, in bulk quantities.

CINNAMON.—Leaf oil, if available, would be worth about 13s. 9d. per lb.

CITRONELLA.—Ceylon, spot; 21s. per lb.; Java, scarce at 27s. 6d. per lb.

CLOVE.—English distillers' prices are steady at from 11s. 6d. to 12s. per lb., according to quantity.

COCONUT.—Bulk quantities of refined deodorised are officially priced at £49 per ton, and refined hardened deodorised at £53.

COTTONSEED.—Controlled prices for bulk supplies are as follows: Crude, £52 2s. 6d.; washed, £55 5s.; refined edible, £57; refined deodorised, £58 per ton; all varieties quoted naked ex works.

EUCALYPTUS.—Supplies are short. Oil containing 70 to 75 per cent. cineole would be worth about 7s. 6d. per lb.

GINGERGRASS.—Small supplies may be obtained at 22s. 6d. per lb.

LEMONGRASS.—Steady at 13s. per lb.

NUTMEG.—English makers quote 35s. per lb., with lower prices for quantities.

PALMAROSA.—Any available supplies would be worth 60s. per lb.

PEPPERMINT.—If available, small lots would fetch approximately 190s. per lb.

RAPESEED.—Bulk quantities are officially quoted at £85 per ton, naked ex works.

Synthetics and Isolates.—Supplies of many of these products remain short and are not necessarily available because prices are quoted. In some cases all available stocks are required for essential purposes. **AMYL ACETATE.**—Pure, about 130s. per cwt.; technical, 100s. per cwt.; small quantities would be worth up to about 2s. per lb. **AMYL SALICYLATE.**—About 5s. per lb. **BROMSTYROL.**—100 per cent., about 30s. per lb. **BUTYRIC ACID.**—Now being manufactured in England; price about 7s. per lb.; esters from British-made butyric acid are also available. **CINNAMIC ALDEHYDE.**—Quoted at around 9s. per lb. **CITRAL.**—Chemically pure, about 50s. per lb. **CITRONELLAL** and **CITRONELLOL.**—Both nominal at 60s. to 70s. per lb. **COUMARIN.**—Quoted at approximately 17s. 6d. per lb. **ETHYL PHTHALATE** is not quoted. **EUCALYPTOL.**—About 13s. per lb. **EUGENOL.**—Around 18s. 6d. per lb. **GERANIOL.**—About 80s. per lb., ex palmarosa oil. **GERANYL ACETATE.**—Approximately 85s. per lb. **IONONE.**—100 per cent., around 72s. 6d. per lb. **ISOEUGENOL.**—About 22s. per lb. **RHODINOL.**—From African geranium oil, about 150s. per lb.

NEW BOOKS

Prosperity, Wages and Free Enterprise.—McGregor, A. G. 7 in. by 4½ in. Pp. 117. 3s. Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. This stimulating little book is written for those interested in the problem of avoiding post-war unemployment. The author considers the handicaps caused by the prevalence of two fundamental economic errors: (1) the master-and-servant cost-of-living basis for the adjustment of wages; and (2) the fetish of fixed exchange rates for money. His contention is that the present plight of the world is rooted in the drift from free enterprise to economic control. The book is well written and thought-provoking, and deserves consideration.

Lexique Polyglotte des Maladies Contagieuses.—Dr. Yves Biraud, M.S., M.D., M.P.H., Head of the Service of Epidemiological Intelligence and Public Health Statistics, League of Nations. 9½ in. by 6½ in. Pp. 357. 4s. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. (League of Nations Publications Department), 40 Museum Street, London, W.C.1. This book, well printed and on good paper, is an attempt to provide lists of terms of the various communicable diseases in the main European languages, with the addition of Latin (thirty-one languages in all). The polyglot glossary consists of a series of parallel columns, one for each language (extending over 253 pages), containing the names of the diseases opposite the corresponding headings and subheadings of the International list of 1938. These pages are followed by an alphabetical index (of seventy-five pages) of all the words used in the preceding columns, thus making cross-reference easy. The problem of production was not an easy one, for in many languages names closely resembling one another are used for different diseases and are likely to mislead the unwary translator. Thus, in French, the word "anthrax" corresponds to a conglomeration of boils, but in English, Russian, and several other languages, the word means "infection by *Bacillus anthracis*." Still more dangerous is the word *typhus*, used in France exclusively for typhus fever, whilst in Germany it designates typhoid fever and French-speaking Swiss and Belgian physicians use the word "typhus" to designate "enteric fever." Many people think that the use of Latin would do away with such difficulties but this is not the case, for Latin nomenclature of disease is far less uniform than Latin botanical and zoological nomenclatures. Not only does the name of a single

disease have several Latin homonyms but what is worse—sometimes a Latin term designates several different diseases. An example is *rubeola*, sometimes used as equivalent of "measles" (morbilli) and sometimes of "German measles" (rubella). These and other problems have been to a great extent overcome, and this book will be found an essential and reliable desk companion and work of reference.

CORRESPONDENCE

Pharmacy in New Zealand

SIR,—I have been very interested in the recent correspondence concerning the conditions and future prospects of pharmacy in Australia (see *C. & D.*, August 19, p. 20). Can any of your readers supply any interesting and useful information regarding the state of pharmacy in New Zealand?

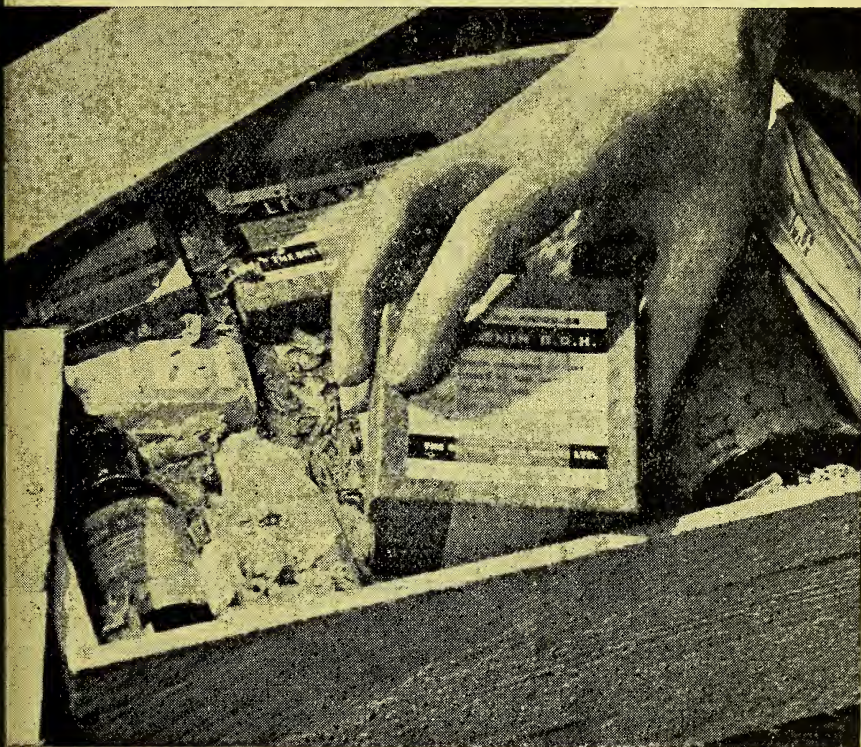
Yours faithfully,
A. L.

Cold Vaccine Trials

SIR,—Our attention has been drawn to a paragraph under the heading "Cold Vaccines and the Common Cold," in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, August 26 (p. 23). This company, in 1943-44, introduced to a limited number of its customers an anacoryza vaccine for oral administration. The success which attended the trial was such that the company is this year sponsoring a wide campaign to reduce absenteeism in industry as a result of the incidence of the common cold. Scores of industrial organisations are co-operating, and they are to keep comparative statistics. The special feature of the vaccine, which is marketed under the name Oravac, is that the organisms are not of a "stock" variety. Specially selected organisms of *Bacillus influenza* (Pfeiffer), influenza streptococcus (Thomson), haemolytic streptococci, pneumococci (several types), and *Micrococcus catarrhalis* are grown together in symbiosis with an anaerobic streptothrix, in the case of an anaeromyces bronchitica. There would appear to be no doubt that growing the organisms together, in symbiosis, produces a most virulent culture with a resulting highly potent antigen ("Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene," December 12, 1937). The vaccine is offered in a fluid medium, as experiments show that, if the culture be dehydrated and taken either in capsule or tablet form, the rise in agglutination titre is by no means so marked.

Yours faithfully,
A. LLOYD, general manager
Westhoughton. Calmic, Ltd.

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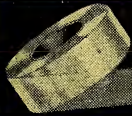
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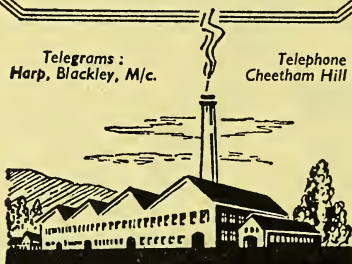
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Therefore we appeal to the Medical, Nursing and Pharmaceutical professions to help in informing the public of this satisfactory state of affairs. The normal professional and commercial services of the country are in a position to cater for those whose needs are as yet outside the scope of official activities.

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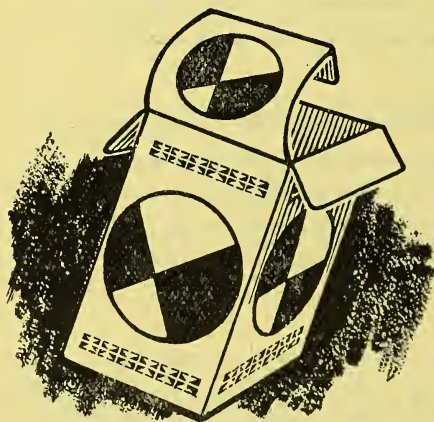


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THE CHEMIST & DRUGGIST DIARY AND YEAR-BOOK, 1936

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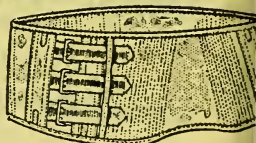
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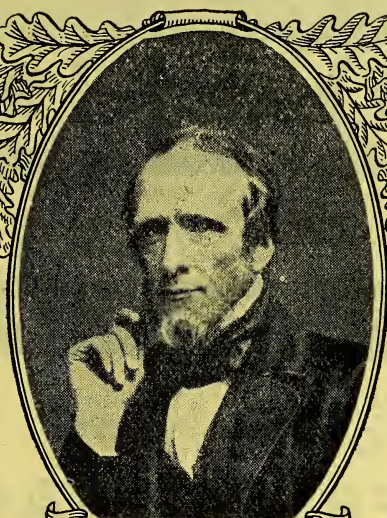
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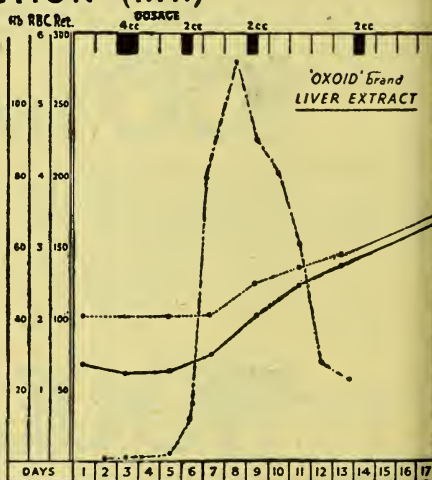
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The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST SUPPLEMENT

This Supplement is inserted in every copy of The Chemist & Druggist

SEPTEMBER 9
1944

28 ESSEX STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

Supplement Advertisements must be prepaid and should reach us not later than FIRST POST WEDNESDAY week of issue. Box Office numbers 1/- extra. Late advertisements will be held over to following week.

WAR DAMAGE ACT, 1943 (Part 2 Business Scheme)
WAR RISKS INSURANCE ACT, 1939 (PART 2)
view of the recurrence of enemy air attack. It is of paramount importance that Chemists, wholesale and retail, know the value of their tangible assets. Inadequate cover results in inadequate compensation. The production of an Inventory and a reputable Valuer's Certificate facilitates an early and satisfactory Assessment.

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in $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. Ribbed Ovals with Screw Caps
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ASSISTANT accustomed to Pricing Chemists' Stock-books. Part or full time. City. Temporary. Apply "A," 577/689, C. & D. London Office.

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HEPPELLS are requiring Manager for good-class busy West End Pharmacy. West End experience and up-to-date ideas necessary. Apply Superintendent, Heppells (1932), Ltd., 70 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

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PARTIALLY disabled young Chemist seeks permanently, well-recommended Unqualified Assistant. Easy hours. N.E. Hants country town. Accommodation. 576/655, C. & D. London Office.

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REQUIRED almost immediately, qualified Manager, either sex, for progressive Pharmacy. Full particulars in first letter to W. E. Partridge, Chemist, 431 Gloucester Road, Bristol, 7.

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